

Steelworks at Llanwern or Ravenscraig threatened with closure

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

The British Steel Corporation is considering closing its works at Ravenscraig, near Motherwell, or Llanwern, in Gwent, in an attempt to remove excess capacity, it was disclosed yesterday.

Discussions on possible closure options are already taking place with the Government, Sir Robert Haslam, BSC chairman, told the Commons trade and industry select committee. Both plants employ more than 4,000 workers.

Mr Bob Scholey, BSC's chief executive, told MPs that the corporation could not go on running three plants at two-thirds capacity. "We have always said we have a need for two."

The third strip mill, at Port Talbot, is undergoing a £180 million re-fit and would be a "world-competitive venture", he added.

Sir Robert told MPs: "If you can only use 70 per cent of the capacity available to you, you have a great albatross round your neck."

BSC officials also hinted strongly at further closures in other areas, including its special steels division. In spite of announcing the closure of its Tinsley Park works in Sheffield in March, with the loss of 800 jobs, there would still be excess capacity "which will have to be dealt with".

Although BSC is making a small profit, it is financially viable required making about £200 million a year, Sir Robert said.

"If we are to privatise the business, as the Government are asking us to do in the long haul, we would have to see some figures beyond that and we would have to demonstrate we could do that in a robust way."

"We now believe unless we make further structural changes we are entering a profit plateau which at best could be fragile."

Mr Scholey said that the retrenchment programme over the past three years had moved BSC from "gigantic" annual losses to breakeven. But at the end of this year all government aid would cease.

"We can't go on in a break-even situation beyond the end of this year and feel comfortable in our jobs."

There was very little more that could be done in terms of effective manpower arrangements at BSC sites. "What we have to do is consider the number of sites we have in operation. It is only by site reduction that we are going to get overheads reduced."

Earlier Sir Robert told the select committee that BSC would have made a modest profit in 1984-85 but for the miners' strike, which led to extra costs of £180 million. The corporation lost about 700,000 tons of steel production during the year-long dispute.

During the past two years BSC profit performance had improved by about £400 million "which is a pretty good performance by any circumstances. But having said that, break-even and just passing break-even is only a milestone."

● The Scottish TUC condemned any suggestion that Ravenscraig should be closed (Ronald Faux writes).

It said that the driving force for a reduction came from other EEC countries. "While Britain was cutting back, other EEC members, notably West Germany and Italy, were increasing their capacity."

"Closing Ravenscraig would have unthinkable consequences for Lanarkshire because so much of the community depends on those works."

The steel unions and the Scottish TUC have been pressing for an investment of £90 million in new coke capacity at Ravenscraig to secure the future of the works, which has recently been breaking records for production and efficiency.

Employers challenged on teachers' pay figure

By Lucy Hodges

The biggest parents' organisation in England and Wales today calls on the local authority employers to tell the nation what they think teachers should be paid.

The National Confederation of Parents' Teachers Associations, which represents more than four million parents and teachers, says that the employers should tell people where they stand on teachers' pay.

"At present we do not know, and we desperately want to know, because we are totally dissatisfied and fed up with our children being used as pawns in an industrial tug of war," the confederation says in a statement timed to coincide with the reorganisation of the Association of County Councils.

Mrs Sheila Naylor, press officer for the confederation, said that Mr Philip Merridale, leader of the employers' side on the Burnham negotiating committee - who could lose his job after today's ACC manoeuvres - had been fudging.

If the local authorities' hands were tied by central government they could at least say so, she said. "Parents say it is time the authorities took the matter seriously."

● Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said yesterday that teachers earned less than crane drivers, sea-going deckhands and printing machine minders.

In a speech to striking teachers in Mrs Margaret Thatcher's constituency, he listed six facts which he said the Prime Minister should face up to. The pay of teachers was so low that thousands of them were eligible for state benefits, he said.

The average pay of all teachers, including heads and deputies was £190 a week, and 41 per cent of all teachers earned less than the average manual wage. Teachers' pay needed to be increased by 34 per cent to restore the relative levels of the Houghton award of 1974.

"It is Mrs Thatcher and her Government who have prevented the teachers' employers from making a fair offer to teachers," he said. "It is her Government which must make the financial resources available to make the resumption of negotiations worthwhile."

● Parents in Croydon are furious about a proposed £1.6 million cut next year which will remove 68 teachers from schools. The county is having to make the saving because it budgeted for only a 3 per cent pay rise for teachers this year. In the event teachers were first offered 4 per cent, and have more recently been offered 5 per cent, both of which offers they have rejected.

Unions in big business league

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Unions are big business as evidenced by the accounts just published of the Transport and General Workers Union, the country's largest, which show that the union is worth almost £60 million.

The union also became the country's richest last year in terms of funds per member taking on that mantle from the National Union of Mineworkers which is still experiencing severe financial problems in the aftermath of the strike. The transport union is worth £40 per member, compared with £15 per member in 1978.

The union spent more than £41 million last year on such diverse items as benefits to members, political affiliations, its own hotel in London and recuperative and holiday centres. The largest item of expenditure, almost £28 million went on administration of an organization that employs 1,640 people and has 1,473,476 members.

Union funds would have been even healthier had it not been for an extraordinary item of £200,250 which was extracted by the Queen's Remembrancer after the leadership contest in November during last November's Austin Rover strike.

During 1984 the union reported a surplus of more than £4 million compared with just under £2.7 million and Mr Moss Evans will be handing over to Mr Ron Todd the new general secretary of a union in robust financial health despite a falling membership.

The union spent £804,581 on political affiliations, fees and grants, including £568,000 in affiliation fees to the Labour Party.

The Times and the BBC: a statement

The six Independent National Directors of Times Newspapers Holdings Ltd have, at the request of the Editor of The Times, inquired into suggestions that articles in The Times criticizing the BBC were part of a campaign initiated or inspired, directly or indirectly by Mr Rupert Murdoch in furtherance of his own commercial interests. Over the past few months such suggestions have been printed in a number of newspapers and magazines, discussed on television and radio and been the subject of gossip and innuendo.

Apart from the fact that the giving of any such direction or the use of such influence would be inconsistent with the maintenance of the professional standards and integrity of The Times, for the Editor and Mr Murdoch to have conspired in a campaign to further commercial interests would, if true, have constituted a breach of the undertakings given when News International acquired The Times, thus damaging the special position of the Secretary of State's conditions afford The Times and implying that the Editor's independence had been threatened or impugned.

At a meeting between the Editor and the National Directors of Times Newspapers, the Editor in conformity with the procedures open to him in the constitution of Times Newspapers formally requested the Directors to examine the substance of the charge that he had, in violation of the Articles of Association and the guarantees given to Parliament, used the paper to promote the financial interests of the Proprietor.

The Directors took note that Mr Alasdair Milne, the Director General of the BBC, on January 29 in a speech to the TV and Radio Industries Club, had asked "who is the more likely to serve the public interest, the BBC or The Times, whose recommendations acted upon would have the practical effect of enabling its owner Rupert Murdoch to acquire some of the most valuable broadcasting airtime in the UK?". He then referred to the "unrestrained self-interest" of "one or two fortune seekers" who saw "a lovely plum for harvesting". This theme was subsequently taken up and to some extent developed in various broadcasts, following Mr Milne's initial statements the theme was also reflected in other newspapers.

The Independent Directors therefore began inquiries and shortly after receipt of the Editor's request wrote to Mr Alasdair Milne asking him either to present the concrete evidence on which he made the allegations or if he had not such evidence to disown the damaging inferences. On June 6 Mr Alasdair Milne replied saying: "I do not of course have the concrete evidence for which you ask because I do not work for The Times. The inference I draw from the paper's behaviour over the BBC seemed a reasonable one, and, as I said in my last letter, I was not alone in drawing it. But the Editor's explanation was sufficient to lay my fears to rest."

This last sentence refers to a meeting between Mr Milne and the Editor of The Times when the Editor repudiated the views expressed by Mr Milne.

The Independent Directors have now ruled that the essential fact is that Mr Milne admits that he made his statements without evidence and acknowledges that he no longer seeks to maintain them, these things being so the charge necessarily lapses. The Independent Directors find that there is no case against the Editor, they further declare that there is no case for sustaining any suggestion that the Editor's independence has been threatened or impugned.



The wreckage of the car yesterday.

RUC officer dies in land-mine blast

By Richard Ford

A Royal Ulster Constabulary officer was killed and a colleague critically injured yesterday when the Provisional IRA detonated a 1000lb landmine on an isolated border road.

The force of the blast hurled the officers and their car 50ft into the air and the two men had to be cut free from the wreckage of the vehicle a mile from the village of Kinawley in Co Fermanagh.

Two officers following in another police car on routine traffic patrol escaped unhurt when their car crashed into a large post.

An Army helicopter flew the two seriously injured officers eight miles to Erne Hospital in Enniskillen but Police Constable William Gilliland, aged 39, died three hours later after undergoing emergency surgery. Last night his colleague, a 23-year-old constable, was described as very seriously ill.

The terrorists detonated the bomb, only three miles from the border with Co Cavan in the Irish Republic from a hill 300 yards away.

Constable Gilliland, who had two sons aged nine and 10, came from Lisbellaw in Co Fermanagh. He joined the force in 1972 and is the nineteenth member of the RUC to die this year.

The explosion came seven hours before Prince and Princess Michael of Kent arrived in the province to carry out engagements.



Constable Gilliland

Deputies see change in colliery review

By Rupert Morris

The National Coal Board put forward new proposals yesterday in an effort to resolve the argument with the mining unions over colliery review procedure.

Mr Peter McNestry, general secretary of Nacods, the pit deputies' union, which recently lifted an overtime ban, said the board had changed its position on one of the two main issues of contention: the criteria to be applied when assessing the future of a given pit, and the composition of the independent review body.

Neither he nor any of his union colleagues would say on which issue the board had moved, and the board was similarly non-committal. The two sides meet again tomorrow.

Mr Alan Wilson, general secretary of the British Association of Colliery Management, was the most optimistic of the negotiators. He said: "We are coming closer together."

The board has put no overall figure on possible closures, but on the basis of local announcements, it seems that at least 18,000 jobs will go, Mr Arthur Scargill, the miners' president, says the board wants to shed 25,000 jobs.

● The £2.7 million National Union of Mineworkers fund is to remain frozen in a bank in the Irish Republic until the union's executive appoints trustees acceptable to English courts (Richard Ford writes from Belfast).

The cash traced to Dublin at the end of last year will continue to gather interest in an account at the Bank of Ireland Finance Limited, a judge decided yesterday. It is part of £8 million moved to the bank from the Isle of Man before the miners strike began.

Mr Justice Barrington in the High Court in Dublin rejected an application by the trustees, accountants from Price Waterhouse, and the court-appointed receiver, Mr Michael Arnold, for the release of the frozen assets.

Mr Arnold was appointed after the union was fined £200,000 for contempt of court.

The question of costs is to be raised in the court next Tuesday.

Negligence claims extension

By Peter Evans

The Government is to introduce law reforms to ensure justice for victims of "latent damage", those who suffer loss as a result of bad professional advice or defective building work carried out many years before (Our Home Affairs Correspondent writes).

At present there is a time limit on going to court about a latent defect. The damage may be hidden for many years after the negligence that caused it, but a claim cannot be pursued more than six years after the damage occurred.

The legislation will be based on a report by the Law Reform Committee, a group of judges and lawyers under Lord Scarman, which said that the present law was uncertain.

The report recommended that the limit be extended to allow the victim three years from the date of "discovery", or reasonable discoverability, of significant damage.

Second, there should be a "long stop" bar on proceedings more than 15 years from the date of the defendant's breach of duty in negligence cases involving latent damage, it said.

Political bias in choice of Civil Servants denied

By Hugh Clayton

The Prime Minister never appoints senior Civil Servants on political grounds, Sir Robert Armstrong, Secretary to the Cabinet and head of the Home Civil Service, said in a rare public appearance yesterday.

"She wants, as I want, to have the best person for the job," he said at the centenary conference of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy in Brighton.

"I can vouch for the fact that she does not seem to ascertain the political views or sympathies, if any, of those who are recommended to her," Sir Robert said. "Nor do I."

Some recent new ministers had been apprehensive about the objectivity of the Civil Servants awaiting them. But they soon learned that Civil Servants would not be "hostile" to the policies they are committed to pursuing when they take office.

Reform of business rates will push up the rate bills of many householders, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (Cipfa) said yesterday (Hugh Clayton writes).

One type of business rate reform could be a household bill in Wandsworth, south London, from £345 to £783.

The institute published a survey based on the assumption that the Government would transfer the power to fix the method of raising business rates. It also assumed that the total to be extracted from business rate payers would stay at today's level of £7,000 million.

Non-domestic Rates (Cipfa, 2 Roberts Street, London WC2; £10).

Engine prototype already ahead of BL targets

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

The new K series engine at the heart of British Leyland's battle to prevent the Government cutting about £200 million from its £1.3 billion investment plan is already beating its performance targets in prototype form and could be in production at Longbridge within two years.

The all-alloy unit in one-litre and 1.4-litre configuration is so light that one person can lift it. It will be built with three and four cylinders and, according to reliable sources, is already producing as much power as the best 1.6-litre engine available from competitors.

The figure of £250 million which has been widely reported is about £50 million wide of the mark. I understand that the plan calls for £20 million to be spent on engineering the K series to prepare it for volume production, and between £130 million and £150 million on re-equipping the Longbridge engine factory.

With other costs such as installation fittings and developing anti-pollution exhaust systems, the total package is £200 million.

The implications of the K series on Austin Rover's prospects cannot be overstated. The present engine plant at Longbridge, which also supplies Cowley, is outdated and expensive to operate.

Some new machinery has been installed in recent years but at best it has been a patching-up job which does not compare with the computer-controlled factories of European and Japanese rivals.

Conditions have improved since engine workers had to pack worn-out machinery with shims and cigarette paper, but the whole plant is in urgent need of retooling and reorganisation.

The intention is to retool it with computer-controlled machine centres which will be flexible enough to produce a wide range of engines. The computer data base accumulated for K makes the development of larger engines a much less costly venture.

Honda, expected to increase its collaboration with BL, does not have the production capacity needed to supply between 300,000 and 350,000 engines a year which Austin Rover would need if it had been forced to buy in.

Inquiries were made with other manufacturers but no one had that amount of spare capacity.

The alternative was for Honda to invest in additional plant. Honda's present small engine range the 1.3-litre three valve cylinder unit fitted to the Rover 213, and engine introduced in June 1982, is still comparatively young when normal engine life today is at least 20 years.

But Austin Rover wants to run ahead of the field with the next-generation engine. It is argued: "Why should we take 7,000 to 8,000 engines a week from Honda at a high-cost penalty which helps a competitor to invest in the development of a new engine?"

"With the new computer-controlled machining centres making 250,000 to 350,000 engines a year, a very viable production mode, we need the big savings possible from manufacturing our own engines to increase our profits and speed up the day when we are ready for privatization."

Brittan evasive on tax cuts

From Philip Webster, Political Reporter, Brecon

Fresh doubts about the Cabinet's commitment to income tax cuts were raised yesterday by the refusal of Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, to state that they remained a long term goal.

Mr Brittan, campaigning in the Brecon and Radnor by-election for Mr Chris Butler, repeated four times in a speech at Crickhowell on Monday and twice yesterday at press conferences that the Government had not run out of steam.

He listed the Government's long-term aims "from which it had not and would not be distracted", including reform of the welfare state, privatisation and fighting crime. But he made no mention of tax cuts, reinforcing the impression that he has joined those of his colleagues who believe that a rapid reduction of the 7 per cent inflation rate should take precedence over other objectives.

Mr Brittan, a former Chief Secretary to the Treasury who has been counted among the Cabinet tax cutters, was twice asked to confirm that cuts in taxation remained a long-term aim. But he declined to do so. Mr Brittan's reticence was surprising because since leaving the Treasury he has continued to be a regular public contributor to the economic debate and it could be significant in view of the Cabinet's meeting at Chequers on Sunday for a long-term strategy discussion on public expenditure.

There have been suggestions that other Cabinet ministers, including Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, have become cooler over further spending and tax cuts, although this has been strenuously denied.

With the contest for the July 4 poll in its early stages, campaigners in all parties report an unusual level of political awareness among voters renewed for their independence of mind.

"They are thinking people and are not going to be told what to do, Mr Richard Lively, the Alliance candidate, said.

The traditional reserve was evident when Mr Brittan and Mr Roy Jenkins, former SDP leader, spoke to audiences largely composed of party faithful on Monday night. They were received politely and warmly, but without the overt show of enthusiasm often associated with by-election meetings.

Tory campaign managers are mindful that the voters are looking for a good constituency MP rather than a national figure. Mr Butler takes every opportunity to present himself as his own man, making a virtue of the fact that he differs from the government on some issues.

The Labour and Alliance camps are battling to be seen as the main challenger to the Tories. There is no evidence to suggest that either of their votes, which were almost equal at the 1981 general election, is crumbling.

Mr Lively, however, maintains that he is receiving a promising response from all parts of the constituency.

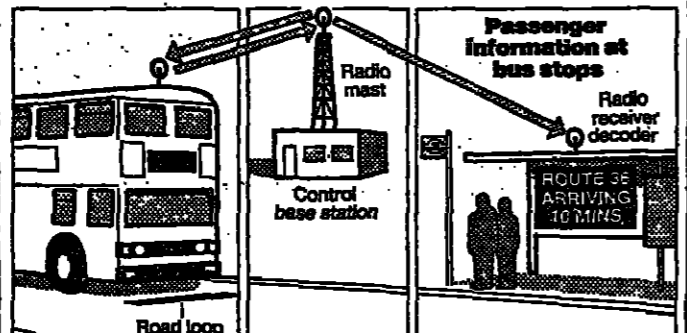
But given the fiercely radical tradition of the voters which led them to return a Labour MP for four decades up until 1979 and the far-flung nature of the 50-mile wide and 70-mile long constituency, which makes an overall assessment a hazardous business, nobody is taking anything for granted.

£178,000 award for parents of boy in coma

The "devoted parents" of a boy, aged 15, who will remain in a coma for the rest of his life after a swimming tragedy were yesterday awarded damages of £178,000 in the High Court.

Mr Justice Canfield said he believed that Lee Alan Burke would still be leading a healthy life today had an attendant at the Empire Pool in Cardiff not been looking the other way and talking to a group of girls when the boy got into difficulties.

The court, sitting in Cardiff, was told that the boy had remained in a coma at his parents' home in Dalmeir Road, Tremorfa, Cardiff, since the accident four years ago. He suffered irreparable brain damage.



Cutting the wait for buses

By Michael Bailly, Transport Editor

The frustration of long waits at London bus stops could be eased by passenger information systems being developed by London Buses. Electronic indicators at bus stops would show which buses are coming and how long travellers have to wait.

Trials costing £50,000 are under way into systems that use loops under the road, micro-processors on the buses, radio transmitters, and dot matrix indicators at bus stops.

The cost would depend on how extensive a system is authorized by London Regional Transport. A London-wide network would cost tens of millions of pounds although many loops are already in place for the existing Buscon control system.

Similar systems are being developed in other cities, in Britain and abroad, but London is probably the biggest and most complex installation being considered.

Mr John Telford Beasley, chairman of London Buses, said yesterday that reliable information was a high priority for London's bus passengers.

Driver may lose taxi licence

Mr Jeremiah O'Connell, the London taxi driver fined £75 for refusing to drive a Daily Star journalist is expected to have his licence suspended by the Metropolitan Police.

Scotland Yard said yesterday that its Public Carriage Office, responsible for licensing taxis, would interview Mr O'Connell.

The Times overseas selling prices: Australia \$22; Belgium 2.25; Canada \$22; Denmark 2.25; France 2.25; Germany 2.25; Greece 2.25; Hong Kong \$22; India 2.25; Italy 2.25; Japan 2.25; New Zealand \$22; Norway 2.25; Portugal 2.25; Singapore 2.25; South Africa 2.25; Sweden 2.25; Switzerland 2.25; Taiwan 2.25; Thailand 2.25; USA \$22; West Germany 2.25.

£40m research cut urged

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A £40 million cut in research in particle physics phased over the next five years is recommended in a report to the Government.

There would be a progressive reduction in grants to universities in Britain and in the contribution to the international laboratory at Cern, near Geneva, which costs Britain £37 million a year.

The recommendations from a group of scientists, under the chairmanship of Sir John Kendrew, a Nobel laureate, propose that Britain should remain a member of Cern, the European Centre for Nuclear Research, after 1989 only if a gradual reduction in subscriptions is made, starting with a 5 per cent cut in the first year, rising to 25 per cent over four years.

In a controversial assessment of the most expensive and costlier branch of basic research, the report says that the pace of development in high energy physics is too high and should be reduced.

Tory MPs to keep up Stansted revolt

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Conservative backbench opponents of Stansted airport expansion are planning to press their campaign during detailed examination of the Government's imminent legislation.

Mr Francis Pym, former Foreign Secretary, was one of 17 Conservative MPs who voted against the proposals in the Commons early yesterday.

The scale of the revolt was a measure of the delicate balance struck by the White Paper on Airports Policy, drafted by Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, in the wake of January's 70-strong revolt.

But the committee stage of legislation implementing the White Paper is expected to produce further revolts designed to temper Mr Ridley's proposals.

Conservative MPs opposed to large-scale development of Stansted will attempt to block expansion beyond the Government's interim traffic limit of eight million passengers a year.

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Colombian cocaine gangs already threatening Britain, US team says

By Patricia Clough

Britain is "ripe for the picking" as a target for Colombian cocaine traffickers, a US anti-drugs team said in London yesterday.

"The money is here and people can afford it," Mr George Frangulie the US Drug Enforcement Administration's chief agent in Bogota, Colombia, said.

Colombian gangs are already operating inside Britain and name have been passed on to the British authorities, he said.

Cocaine is being aimed at Britain and other West European countries by traffickers who have made billions of pounds profit in the US.

About 20 metric tonnes of the drug is believed to be heading for Europe from South America, compared with 60 metric tonnes smuggled each year into the US where cocaine use has reached epidemic proportions, he said.

Scotland Yard officials said the number of arrests and the amount of cocaine being intercepted are increasing, but they declined to give figures.

"We are aware of the Colombian connection and we are trying to break it," a spokesman said. The team, led by Mr Jon R. Thomas, Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics Matters, was in London at the start of a European tour of three countries. They said they wanted to exchange experiences and encourage co-operation, but their message was that European countries should learn from the US and act before it is too late.

Twenty-two million Americans one tenth of the population - have tried cocaine and between five and seven million continue using it. About 5,000 people start using it each day.

The team said that one of the greatest dangers is the "myth" that cocaine is not addictive. "We can now say it is terribly addictive, probably more so than heroin," Dr Ian MacDonal, administrator of the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration said.

"If we had known that 15 years ago we would have been able to save many people. We hope you can benefit from our experience to avoid this type of problem."

Mr Frangulie said the most important way of combating the drug was by educating people. "Take away the glamour and show the horrifying effects," he said.

The team gave a warning that three or four years elapse between people starting to use the drug and its effects becoming apparent in hospital emergency wards and post-mortem examinations, so that public authorities may not be aware of the situation until it was too late.

An example of dangers of cocaine was one of the team, Mr Peter Bear, a Wisconsin state senator while in his twenties, whose potentially brilliant political career was destroyed by his abuse of cocaine. He is now head of a drug rehabilitation centre.

There may be as many as 500 heroin addicts in Britain, the Association of Chief Police Officers reported in a memorandum to the Commons select committee on home affairs.

A drop in street prices to as little as £50 a gram has made heroin more readily accessible, particularly to the young. Most are thought to become addicted by vapourising the drug - known as "chasing the dragon" - in the mistaken belief that it does not lead to addiction, it said.



The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at the head of the royal procession.



The Princess of Wales, Amanda Riley-Smith (above centre) and Brenda Slack. (Photographs: Warren Harrison and Bill Warhurst.)

Royal Ascot for Arab prince

The first day of Royal Ascot offered little comfort to the Queen yesterday with her two runners coming nowhere and a foreign prince continuing his inexorable progress towards becoming this season's leading owner.

Sheikh Muhammad, third son of the ruler of Dubai whose family have become among the heaviest investors in British bloodstock, landed two winners with five runners on yesterday's card, including a £21,000 win with Sure Blade in the Coventry Stakes.

The 38-year-old English-educated sheikh, who is Dubai's Minister of Defence, is a member of the Gulf state's ruling Maktoum family who have collectively won three of the four English classics run this year.

The Queen's two entries, Leading Star and Silver Dollar, in spite of being ridden by Pat Eddery and Willie Carson, failed to make the frame in their two races. From being leading owner in the late 1960s the Queen has since enjoyed disappointing performance as an owner.

Robert Sangster, a once powerful force in English racing, was also eclipsed by the Arabs yesterday, although one of his two runners managed second place in the Queen Anne Stakes.

Ascot none the less lived up to its social cache with the best champagne at £35 and the cheapest at £18.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh led the Queen Mother, the Prince and Princess Margaret in the traditional carriage procession.

Ascot reports, page 20

BT workers accused of bribery

British Telecom workers accepted money, whisky and champagne as bribes for giving contractors work, an industrial tribunal was told in London yesterday.

For months workers responsible for allocating jobs under a £9.5 million budget took inducements from three contractors, and allegedly drank free at a contractor's public house and were treated to free meals, champagne and bottles of whisky.

They also had repairs done to their homes free of charge and were given cash of up to £500 as Christmas presents, the hearing at Chelsea was told.

Mr Peter Clark, for British Telecom, alleged that a senior executive, Mr J S Ready, of Rainham, Essex, was the "Mr Fixit" behind the corruption.

Thirteen staff at British Telecom's London North Centre were investigated last year when an internal audit disclosed manipulations.

Graham Keegan, aged 27, of Basildon, Essex, Terence White, aged 41, of Bow, east London, Ann Marshall, aged 31, of Billericay, Essex, and Stephen Maher, aged 32, of Homerton, east London, claimed unfair dismissal.

The hearing continues today.

Elton John says he did not read contracts

Elton John signed away his rights to the copyright of future songs without reading the contract, the High Court was told yesterday.

"I still don't read them," the singer told the court on the eleventh day of his claim that the contract with the publisher Dick James 18 years ago was unfair and unreasonable.

The publishing agreement, lasting an initial three years, was also signed by Elton John's mother as guarantor because he was 20. "I don't think she understood it," she wasn't an expert in publishing contracts.

Under the agreement, Elton John then known as Reg Dwight, received a weekly retainer of £15 and his lyric-writing partner, Bernie Taupin, £10. Each received a £50 advance.

Elton John is asking the court to award him a bigger share of the royalties, put at £30 million, of the £200 million his early successes made. He also wants the rights to 136 songs, including Rocket Man, Crocodile Rock, Daniel and Goodbye Yellow Brick Road.

The hearing, which is expected to last another month, continues today.

Inquiry told of visit on day Jasmine died

On the day Jasmine Beckford died, social workers were knocking at her parents' door when they had become "fed up with chasing them around" in futile efforts to organize a routine case review, the independent inquiry into the child's death was told yesterday.

The child, aged 4, had died that morning at the hands of her stepfather, Maurice Beckford; and Miss Gun Wahlstrom, the field worker responsible for the case, would not learn of the death until she returned to the office the next day.

Miss Wahlstrom told the inquiry, now in its eighth week at Brent town hall, north London, how she and a colleague had gone to the Beckfords' house in College Road, Kensal Rise, on the afternoon of last July 5.

Beckford and the woman with whom he was living, Beverley Lorrington, both aged 25, were jailed in March in connection with the child's death while still in the care of Brent Council.

The inquiry continues today.

Family inheritance 'vendetta'

A High Court judge refused yesterday to draw into a "family vendetta" and declare the three youngest daughters of a wealthy art historian, Mrs Dawn Spalding, illegitimate.

The Vice-Chancellor, Sir Nicholas Browne-Wilkinson, even suggested the family might resolve "these extraordinary, unfortunate issues without washing all their dirty linen in public."

He adjourned the hearing until after Scottish court proceedings over the will of the daughters' grandfather, under which they were each to receive £50,000 when they reached the age of 25.

The High Court action is over the trust set up by Mrs Spalding's husband of 28 years, a patents lawyer, Mr William Spalding.

The trustees wanted the judge to declare that the three youngest daughters, Simone, aged 20, Gervaise, aged 22, and Catriona, aged 24, were beneficiaries.

This comes after a disclosure by their mother that they all have different fathers and the only legitimate daughter is the eldest, Leonie, aged 25, who lives with her parents at their home in Burlington Road, Chiswick, west London.

Mrs Spalding said she had made the disclosure because "the three daughters were 'rude and ungrateful'".

Mr Victor Josse, counsel for the trustees, told the judge there were blood tests to support the mother's evidence that Simone's father was a French businessman, Gervaise was the daughter of a university academic and Catriona's father was a London businessman.

The judge said: "You are asking this court to make a declaration of illegitimacy. Is that a proper exercise of this court's jurisdiction? I do not want the proceedings to be used for the purpose of a family vendetta."

Mr Josse said that the value of the investments involved was "substantial". The trustees wanted a declaration that Leonie was the sole beneficiary, because she was already 25 and wished to terminate the settlement.

When he died three years ago Mr Spalding's father, Captain Tom Spalding, left an estate worth £500,000 with the bulk going to his nine grandchildren, including the four sisters. If the three are cut out of the will the others will each receive an additional £25,000 on top of the £50,000 expected.

Captain Spalding amassed his fortune after marrying into the Scottish publishing family, D. C. Thomson, whose titles include The Sunday Post, Beano and Dandy.

Mr William Spalding, his wife, Dawn (right), and their daughter, Leonie, in London yesterday.

Raw sewage at 200 beaches

Nearly 200 of 690 British beaches are likely to be affected by the discharge of totally untreated sewage, according to the Coastal Anti-Pollution League's latest "golden list" of beaches in England and Wales.

The league estimates that only 130 of the beaches would comply with the mandatory standard set by the European Commission for the quality of bathing water. The directive was issued in 1975 and should be met by December, but in Britain the Department of the Environment reduced the number of beaches to be monitored from more than 600 to only 27 by declaring that the directive need only apply to beaches where more than 500 people bathe at once.

Even so, the league says, meant that the directive's standard cannot be met in time for the 1985 deadline at Margate, Scarborough, and Ryde on the Isle of Wight. Britain has asked for more time to comply with the directive's standards in respect of these beaches.

A total of £110 million was spent on 55 capital improvement schemes affecting beaches and bathing water up to 1983, a further £344 million is being spent on 38 schemes, and another £187 million is to be spent on 54 schemes before 1990.

The Coastal Anti-Pollution League said double that amount would be required to catch up with the backlog of work. The number of satisfactory beaches is 43 more than when the "golden list" was last published in 1983.

The Golden List of Beaches in England and Wales (Coastal Anti-Pollution League, 14 Greenway Lane, Bath BA2 4LN, £2).

Gambler denies buying racehorse at Tattersalls

A professional gambler and bookmaker, Mr James Flood, denied in the High Court yesterday that he had bought the racehorse, Sulafaah, for 430,000 guineas at a Tattersalls auction.

Mr Flood, who describes himself as "the world's greatest card player" and boasts of having lost £70,000 on one horse, told Mr Justice Hirst that although he had bid up to 410,000 guineas, he had refused the auctioneer's request for him to offer 430,000 guineas.

He said that when the auctioneer had pointed at him and said: "430,000 guineas", it had been a question and not acceptance of a bid by him. "I just shook my head, I never bid. He was giving evidence on the ninth day of an action in which the original owner of the colt, Liechtenstein-based Alchemy International, is suing Tattersalls over its alleged negligent handling of the sale.

Sulafaah was allegedly sold to Mr Flood for 430,000 guineas in September 1983. But he denied making the bid and refused to sign the sales slip. Alchemy is seeking the difference between that bid and the 200,000 guineas Sulafaah was eventually sold for.

But although Mr Flood, of Durrinstone Court, Malone Road, Belfast, said that there was a mistake, "Tattersalls' mistake", he denied that he had field the auction, without leaving his name or address.

Tattersalls denied negligence.

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20-29	12,129	2,281	1,741	14,951	28,236	5,281	4,141	37,658
30-39	12,129	2,281	1,741	14,951	28,236	5,281	4,141	37,658
40-49	12,129	2,281	1,741	14,951	28,236	5,281	4,141	37,658
50-59	12,129	2,281	1,741	14,951	28,236	5,281	4,141	37,658
60-69	12,129	2,281	1,741	14,951	28,236	5,281	4,141	37,658
70-79	12,129	2,281	1,741	14,951	28,236	5,281	4,141	37,658
80-89	12,129	2,281	1,741	14,951	28,236	5,281	4,141	37,658
90-99	12,129	2,281	1,741	14,951	28,236	5,281	4,141	37,658

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PARLIAMENT JUNE 18 1985

Rise for pensioners Wealthier families hit Benefits review

Bill for pensions and other payments now up to £42 billion

BENEFITS

While pensions and other linked long-term benefits would rise by 7 per cent in November, central heating allowances and child benefits would go up in line with the rise in prices...

The basic rate of unemployment benefit will rise by £2.90 to £60 a week from £57.10. The Government will also increase the rate of child benefit from £28.45 to £30.45 for a single person and from £46 to £49.25 for a couple.

Turning to housing benefit, the needs allowance, which is increased according to a formula which takes account of rents and rates as well as the supplementary benefit rate, will be increased by the full 5.3 per cent to £47.70 for a single person and £70.20 for a married couple.

The Government has concluded that child benefit should be increased in November to £7 a week. However, one parent benefit will be increased by the full 7 per cent from £4.25 to £4.50 per week, and families on supplementary benefit will not be affected and will benefit from the increase in the scale rates for children.

A single person and £6.50 for a married couple. It is our intention to take powers to increase the £10,000 vaccine damage payment which has remained at that level since 1979 to £20,000.

It was a cusp statement which showed the path the Government intended to travel over the next few years and showed how it would proceed.

Mr Arcey Kirkwood (Roxburgh and Berwickshire, L) is the decision to cut back the increase in child benefit a one-off decision but he has taken the view now that in future child benefit will continue to suffer in terms of indexation for the foreseeable future.

Mr Fowler: For the reasons I have just stated that we are at the same time not only retaining child benefit as a universal benefit, we are also in this upgrading providing a full upgrading of one-parent benefit, full upgrading of children's scale rates of supplementary benefit and more help for families on family income supplement. That seems to me a sensible priority, providing more help for low income families.

He said the annual uprating of benefits would increase social security spending by £2.9 billion, bringing the total to £42 billion a year, almost a third of all Government spending.

Following on publication last Friday of the retail price index for May showing a rise of 7.0 per cent between May 1984 and May 1985, Mr Fowler said the Government was pledged to increase pensions and other linked long-term benefits in line with this rise in prices.

Accordingly, the retirement pension for a single person will rise from £35.80 to £38.30, an increase of £2.50 a week, while the pension for a married couple would rise from £57.30 to £61.50, an increase of £4.20 a week.

Mr Michael Meacher, chief Opposition spokesman on social services, called it a cusp statement which targeted children as the first losers in the Green Paper cuts package.

Mr Meacher said the small increase in child benefit betrayed the pledge given by Ministers to maintain its value. This was only revealed now because the Government had no choice.

Mr Robert McClelland (Greenwood and Ougar, C) if the rate of inflation in November is below seven per cent will that not represent a small but welcome increase in the standard of living of pensioners?

Mr Fowler: The major effects concern child benefit, housing benefit, and the central heating allowances. It will mean that the measures all told will reduce the increase in the social security bill by £85 million this year and £250 million in a full year.

Mr Douglas Hogg (Grantham, C) Does not the fact that he has made a check on the amount spent on housing benefit by the local authority suggest that either wealthier people should pay taxes on the benefit or alternatively wealthier people should not receive it if either of these were pursued, would not more resources be available for those in need?

Mr Fowler said the pensions rises would be generally in line with the 7 per cent. We shall also further ease the earnings rule - that is the amount which a pensioner can earn without a reduction of his pension. This will be increased from £70 to £75 a week.

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Kinnock: Why can we not be told who are gainers and losers?

PM's QUESTIONS Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, and Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, each accused the other of reluctance to give figures for their policies during today's exchange of questions about the social security review and Labour's future policy.

Mr Kinnock declared: Talking of gainers and losers - (Conservative shouts of "We know who you are") - does she recall that two weeks ago I asked her if she would give the figures for gainers and losers from the social security review. She told me that in accordance with custom we must wait until May for the retail price index figures. They were published last Friday, and there is

Government which I shall lead. (Labour cheers and Conservative laughter.) Mrs Thatcher: He should know by now, in view of his own answer, that we can only give the figures when we know the structure which will come out in the White Paper. Had we been rash enough to have given them, they would already have been included in view of the uprating.

Income tax cuts of £6,000m

TAXATION During the life of the present Conservative Government, successive Chancellors of the Exchequer have made income tax cuts worth £6,000 million and taxes were less low than they would have been if the structure which had existed under Labour had remained in use, Mrs Thatcher, Prime Minister, said during question time.

Sympathy for aircraft hostages

HIJACKING Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister expressed sympathy for the plight of the hostages on the Trans World Airline jet aircraft and the difficulties facing the American Government.

Lawson's admiration for whisky

SCOTLAND Mr William Walker (North Tayside, C) raised during Prime Minister's questions in the Commons the attempted takeover of Arthur Bell and Sons, the whisky producer, by the Japanese.

Meeting cost of so many more pensioners

GREEN PAPER Britain's pensions bill would at least triple in real terms if the Government did not act now, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, said when he announced the Green Paper proposals for the reform of social security.

retirement pensioners would rise from 8.2 million in 1975-76 to about 9.5 million in 2010. No prediction of the number of pensioners was provided beyond that year.

made in the debate was that there was a belief that there was a national insurance fund from which state earnings-related pensions would be paid. There was no fund. What they were doing was seeking to put obligations on future generations of contributors.

was so coy about giving the necessary figures that would enable a proper assessment of not just the structure but the actual implications in practical terms for the people who would be on the sharp end of the changes. This was not so much a review as a riddle. When we know the Government has got the information and know it will not give the information, we can only reach one conclusion - that the review would be politically led for the Prime Minister and her Government.

Joint task of bringing up children

FAMILY CREDIT The upbringing of children was a joint responsibility for parents, Mr Anthony Newton, Minister for Social Security, said during question time. He said that all benefits for children should be paid directly to the mother.

Hospital sent home helpless woman who was 86

By our Social Services Correspondent A health authority which discharged a helpless woman, aged 86, to an eleventh-floor flat with no adequate arrangements to ensure she could cope was heavily criticised by Mrs Anthony Barrowclough, the Health Service Commissioner.

Mr Barrowclough says the hospital told social workers that the woman, who suffered from Parkinson's disease, was due to be discharged. But having done so it did not apparently consider her subsequent welfare to be their concern, unless she required re-admission.

Another health authority was also criticised for not telling the parents of a boy aged 11 which of his organs had been used for transplant after they gave permission for them to be used. The parents also requested no publicity, but the request failed to get into the hospital notes. As a result a pathologist disclosed the information at the inquest.

Bleeper to keep pilots awake

By Michael Bailly Transport Editor A bleeper to prevent pilots and drivers falling asleep has been developed, based on the principle that electrical resistance rises on the palm sole when a person becomes drowsy.

Health check at House

Concern about the possibility of Legionnaires' disease being found in the Palace of Westminster following the discovery in New Zealand's Parliament Buildings, was expressed during question time in the House of Lords.

Complaint about dirty kitchens

A recent survey found that 25 per cent of hospital kitchens would face a closure if they were not protected from prosecution by the Environment Act, Mr Jack Ashley (Stoke-on-Trent, South, Lab) said when successfully seeking leave under the ten-minute rule procedure to introduce a Bill to remove such immunity from premises covered by the Health and Safety at Work Act and the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Rate rebates

Low-income home owners lose help under the Government's new NICOLAS DIMMINS, Social Services Correspondent reports. For a government still determined to push flagging council house sales, which by definition will increasingly have to go to the less well off and those more at risk of spells of unemployment, the Green Paper's proposals provide discouragement to people to take the risk, rather than incentives.

Train driver cleared over crash

A train driver was cleared of any blame yesterday for the crash in which an Aberdeen to King's Cross sleeper overturned on the notorious Morpeth curve in Northumberland last June after travelling at more than 85 mph when the speed limit was 50 mph.

British farms top EEC size table

Farms in Britain are on average nearly three times the size of those in any other EEC country, according to a survey reported in the latest weekly bulletin of the Home Growth Cereals Authority (our Agriculture Correspondent writes). The survey illustrates the

striking differences in the farming structure within the Community, even before the entry of Spain and Portugal. The United Kingdom, for example, has an agricultural area of more than 17 million hectares, second only to France, but has only 269,000 holdings

compared with 1,255,000 in France and 850,000 in West Germany. In Denmark nearly two-thirds of farmland is used for growing cereals, compared with less than 10 per cent in the Irish Republic. The United Kingdom figure is 22.6 per cent.

Drunk railway driver sentenced

Stephen Rowlands, aged 26, of Station Approach, Coulsdon, Surrey, a train driver who drove through four stations without stopping while drunk and then attacked the guard, was sentenced yesterday to five months in prison suspended for two years, fined £50 and ordered to pay £400 costs.

Drunk railway driver sentenced

Mr John Attree, the Wallingford magistrate, was told Rowlands was having treatment for alcoholism.

Drunk railway driver sentenced

Tomorrow: Income support

Drunk railway driver sentenced

Tomorrow: Income support

Drunk railway driver sentenced

Tomorrow: Income support

Indian leader at pinnacle of popularity

Gandhi comes home in triumph

From Michael Hamlyn
Delhi

The Indian Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, bounced back into Delhi yesterday at the end of his five-country tour beaming ebulliently and enjoying the esteem which his visits have brought him.

He is now at some kind of pinnacle of popularity in his own country, having deftly dealt with the worst that the foreign media could throw at him, and having wooed and won plaudits from world opinion ranging from US Republican right-wingers to the left-inclined members of President Mitterand's Government in France.

There is a great feeling in senior Government and business circles in India that Mr Gandhi, untried and inexperienced as he is, went out and showed everyone his mastery of

men and affairs. "Bravo Rajiv", said the posters welcoming him. "The nation proud on you" (sic).

Mr Gandhi himself summed up the success of his tour - in particular of his visit to the United States - as he arrived at Palam airport, Delhi. "We certainly had very good talks", he told a perspiring press conference, "and I think, on the basis of this visit and the exchanges we have had, that our points of view have come very much closer."

"On certain issues where we have differences we have discussed them openly, and we are going to sit down again to try and sort out the differences, to see how we can come closer without compromising our basic ideals and the basic requirements of a non-aligned country in the Third World."

The differences with the US Government not resolved so far

are spread quite widely and include the so-called new economic order sought by the Third World countries, the question of sophisticated arms sales to Pakistan, and the possibility of arms sales to India.

Contrary to expectations, there was no significant announcement on arms sales during Mr Gandhi's visit either to France or the US, though the Prime Minister did say yesterday that a recent change in American law regarding the conditions surrounding arms sales may make a difference.

One area where the Americans appeared to feel that India was moving closer to their point of view was on Afghanistan, but contrary to the euphoric interpretation of American officials and commentators there does not seem to have been any change in the Indian position.

The words used by Mr Gandhi during his speech to the joint session of the US Congress, referring to India's disapproval of both external intervention (Russian) and interference (American) is a simple restatement of the position of his mother, the former Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi, and of the non-aligned summit meeting in Delhi.

There are, however, more positive signs of coming closer by India and the West in the expectation of additional technology transfer agreements, and in a declaration by the US that they will do all they can to prevent Pakistan developing a nuclear bomb. "I am fairly satisfied", said Mr Gandhi yesterday, "that the US will do everything that it can do." But he added: "That may not stop Pakistan from making a nuclear weapon."

There is also considerable

satisfaction in India at declarations of support for India's unity made by Mr Reagan on the White House lawn, and at the fact that the two men seemed to hit it off personally.

Just in case he might be thought to have tilted unduly towards the West as a result of his visits, Mr Gandhi has sent the senior civil servant in the Foreign Ministry, Mr Romesh Bhandari, to Moscow. Mr Bhandari is plainly there to smooth down any feelings in Moscow that may have been ruffled.

Mr Gandhi also firmly slapped down any loose talk about India's position between the two great powers. "Equidistant between the two, we are non-aligned. And if you don't understand the difference by now, how can you expect the rest of the world to?"

Leading article, page 13



Princess Anne, Colonel-in-Chief, the Royal Corps of Signals, at a marchpast yesterday in Verden, West Germany, where she visited the 1st Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment. Left is Dr Hartmut Friedrichs, Burgomeister of Verden.

Primate meets Poland's leader

From Roger Boyes
Warsaw

The Polish Primate, Cardinal Jozef Glemp, yesterday held the first church-state summit for 18 months with General Jaruzelski in an attempt to improve relations with the Communist authorities.

They met for more than four hours in a government villa and covered all the problems in relation between church and state, including a church scheme to fund Western aid to private farmers, a law that would guarantee church rights in the Polish state and official complaints about radical priests.

The Government, perhaps to forestall grumbling by hardliners or Poland's Communist neighbours, said the stagnation of church-state relations was the responsibility of radical priests who preached against the state and Communism.

But it has long been clear that the summit was very important to the authorities. Normal relations were interrupted first by a virulent anti-clerical campaign then by the murder in October 1984 of Father Jerzy Popieluszko by secret police officers.

But the Government wants to begin a phased series of concessions, primarily to the church, but indirectly to the Polish people, in the lead-up to parliamentary elections in October.

The church remains sceptical but wants, as the primate made clear to General Jaruzelski yesterday, to achieve certain concrete goals.

It wants the Government to lift its largely artificial, bureaucratic objections to the plan for aiding private agriculture. The church now has enough money, or the promise of it, to begin a pilot scheme to help certain sectors of the countryside and improve food production.

Other targets of the church include the release of two priests sentenced to jail terms - one received a suspended sentence - for organizing a school sit-in protest against the removal of crucifixes.

The most tentative, but most important, church ambition is to see the passage of law - ready for more their 18 months - guaranteeing the church certain rights in a communist state.

There is the vague promise that it could be enacted early in the lifetime of the next parliament. That, in the government calculation, would give the church a vested interest in the smooth execution of October's elections.

UN urges West to delay supplies for Ethiopia

Addis Ababa (NYT) - United Nations officials in Ethiopia have advised Western nations not to send new shipments of food here until more of the supplies now in ports and warehouses have been moved to relief centres.

The officials say they have reached an agreement with the Ethiopian leader, Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu aimed at increasing sharply the flow of

grain to millions of starving peasants.

Mr Kurt Jansson, the UN Assistant Secretary General for emergency operations in Ethiopia, and Mr Maurice Strong, executive coordinator of the UN office for emergency operations in Africa, said after a meeting with Colonel Mengistu on Saturday that there was enough food in the country to meet the immediate needs

Tamils agree to a ceasefire

From Our Correspondent, Colombo

The five major Tamil terrorist groups demanding a separate state called Eelam in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka have agreed to cease hostilities the Minister of National Security, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, announced yesterday.

He said that the security forces will adhere to it but warned that there are about 30 terrorist splinter groups.

Government sources said the

cessation of hostilities is the direct outcome of the summit between President Jayewardene and Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, in early June.

Mr Athulathmudali said it could not be called a ceasefire but it was a positive step towards finding a solution. The Government is now exploring how restrictions ranging from a dusk-to-dawn curfew and prohibition of fishing in a surveil-

lance zone in the Palk Straits between India and Sri Lanka to restrictions on fuel in the Northern Province, could be eased.

Mr Athulathmudali also announced that over the weekend, security forces had attacked two terrorist camps near Trincomalee and killed 24 terrorists while in Batticaloa. 11 terrorists had been killed and a further 18 had died in raids on two camps near Mannar.

Landlord must live in own 'slum'

From Ivor Davis
Los Angeles

A Beverly Hills neurosurgeon who has refused to clean up a block of flats he owns has been ordered by a Los Angeles judge to live in one of his "slum flats" for 30 days.

Judge Veronica Simmons McBeth told Dr Milton Avol, aged 61, that after he spends 30 days in prison for not remedying building violations in the flats he owns he will be taken to one of the one-room flats and forced to live there alone for another 30 days.

Dr Avol will be allowed to bring clean sheets, reading material and a television set and have a private guard. A telephone will be installed so the judge can make sure that the sentence is being properly carried out.

The judge offered Dr Avol his choice of "house arrest" or another 30 days in prison.

The Deputy City Attorney, Stephanie Saunter, commented: "If (certain) landlords feared that they would have to live in the same squalor they imposed on some of their tenants, they just might think twice before allowing their apartments to deteriorate to such a level. But this is a classic slumlord situation."

The judge had been told that Dr Avol had not remedied such problems in his flats as broken glass in hallways, rodent infestation, cracked and peeling walls, and fire damaged flats. One flat occupied by a mother and her four children did not have a window.

Japan's trade 'club'

Foreign firms told not to give up

From David Watts, Tokyo

Foreigners who feel excluded from the "club" system of trade in Japan must not give up, according to a Japanese international trade expert.

It's not mainly to give up, that's what you do in a war situation," said Mr Yukio Ohta, Director of Research in the International Trade section of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

Mr Ohta's remarks came in what can only be described as a lecture, peppered with references to the Second World War, given to foreign correspondents and diplomats after he had presented his ministry's 1985 White Paper on foreign trade.

Afterwards Mr Michael Lake, Head of Press and Information for the European Economic Community in Japan, said that if Mr Ohta's remarks represented MITI's philosophical approach, "one wonders what relation it has to the action programme. It does not bode well."

Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister, will announce an action programme on trade either later this month or next.

The Japanese distribution system was like an old European club, Mr Ohta said.

"They do not let in first-comers but if you keep trying you may be able to come in," he said. It was unlikely that admission would be gained on the first two or even three attempts, but foreigners must keep trying.

Ultimately, if they failed to get into the Japanese club, they were free to form their own system to combat the present situation.

On the strength of what Mr Ohta said yesterday, the Foreign

Cardinal Glemp: Told Jaruzelski what he wants

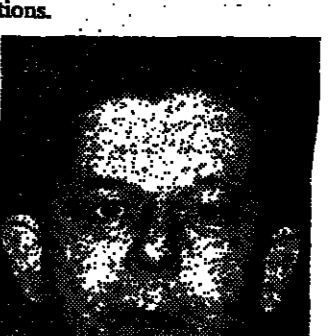
Cardinal Glemp: Told Jaruzelski what he wants.

Trade department of MITI seems to feel that the Japanese Prime Minister's conciliatory line is misplaced and the reason for Japan's trade imbalance lies with the inefficient foreign firms and businessmen rather than Japan's distribution and trade practices. "We were defeated in World War Two partly because of a vast amount of military strategy and tactics and wonderful intelligence and information gathering", American distributors should have an equal amount of information and strategy to cope with the Japanese. "I can't understand why the Americans are not victorious."

"One reason is that during World War Two the Americans went to a great deal of trouble to study the Japanese language. "The Japanese did not do that. We were banned from studying foreign languages but the US Military collected a vast amount of information. After the war we reversed our efforts and spent a considerable amount of time studying English... The United States and Britain have succeeded in exporting their marvellous product - English - which is much better than VTRS of cars."

Mr Ohta's comments came after his presentation, in which MITI attributed Japan's large trade surplus largely to an overvalued dollar and high interest rates in the United States keeping the value of the yen at low levels.

Japan was serious about trying to combat these by increased imports and expansion led by domestic demand, he said, but efforts on both fronts were likely to be hampered by fiscal restraints.



Cardinal Glemp: Told Jaruzelski what he wants.

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Nabih Berri striving to free both TWA hostages and co-religionists from Israeli camp

Muslim 'king' stands to gain twin crowns from hijack negotiations

From Robert Fiak, Beirut

There used to be only one photograph of Nabih Berri on the streets of Beirut. It was a grainy, seven-year-old monochrome image of the young Lebanese lawyer shaking hands with the Imam Moussa Sadr, spiritual leader of the country's million Shia Muslims.

Beirut, hostage negotiator extraordinaire. After he had ordered his gunmen to crash the rival Nasserite militia two months ago, Berri actually referred to Beirut as his "crown", a clear sign to those who had watched his political progress that power, even if not necessarily corrupting, could certainly destroy humility.

He holds a Green Card residence permit for the US, and his first wife still lives in America with two of Berri's children. He regards Washington in much the same way as did some of Khomeini's western-educated associates in the early days of the Iranian revolution; fascinated by its power, appalled by the way that power is used.



Mr Berri: From upstart beginnings to position of strength as most powerful militia leader.

Athens attacks US for 'defamatory' airport campaign

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Greece has blamed the United States for a "defamatory campaign" launched against it over its role in the TWA hijack, and warned of "negative repercussions" if this "unacceptable and malicious conspiracy" continued.

The Greek Ambassador in Washington, Mr George Papapoulos, was called in and told that the US was taking a poor view of the Greek Government's role in the hijack affair.

The statement was made yesterday by Mr Yiannis Haralambopoulos, the Greek Foreign Minister, in the wake of international criticism over poor security precautions at Athens airport, as well as the Socialist Government's decision to negotiate the release of Greek passengers in exchange for an arrested accomplice of the hijackers.

The State Department has advised American travellers to avoid Athens airport because of the danger of hijacks in view of inadequate security conditions there.

China jails football hooligans for 30 months

Peking (AFP) - Jail sentences of up to two and a half years were handed out to five football hooligans here for their part in the riots after a football match between China and Hong Kong here.

The five, all convicted of "criminal activities and hooliganism" were among 127 Chinese arrested after the qualifying match in May which ended China's World Cup hopes.

Belgrade (AFP) - A major trial has opened in Yugoslavia's Kosovo region, with 71 defendants accused of stealing silver ingots worth several millions of pounds over the past six years.

Longest tunnel

Moscow (Reuters) - Soviet engineers are planning a new railway, including Europe's longest tunnel, through the southern Caucasus mountains to avoid detours on current freight and passenger routes.

Silver trial

Wellington (Reuters) - The South Magnetic Pole has shifted towards Australia to a point about 90 miles off the Antarctic coast, according to New Zealand scientists.

UK fans backed

Paris (AFP) - French police are hunting three men who took over the headquarters of the French Sports Journalists' Union here in a display of solidarity with British football hooligans.

Shifting pole

Wellington (Reuters) - The South Magnetic Pole has shifted towards Australia to a point about 90 miles off the Antarctic coast, according to New Zealand scientists.

Panda food

Peking (AFP) - The Chinese Forestry Ministry is to provide one million yuect (226,000) to fund a project aimed at supplying giant pandas with their staple food, arrow bamboo.

Vanishing isles

Jakarta (AFP) - Indonesia's Thousand Island group of islands off the north coast of Java is in danger of disappearing unless uncontrolled digging of sand for commercial purposes can be curbed.

Envoy named

Washington - President Reagan has nominated Mr Richard Burt, Assistant Secretary for European Affairs, as the next US Ambassador to Bonn.

Israel bombs

Jerusalem (AP) - Two bombs went off in Jerusalem and two other charges were safely dismantled in Tel Aviv, police said.

Cultural capital

Athens (AFP) - President Mitterrand of France is to inaugurate Athens as "Europe's culture capital" at the Acropolis on Friday, it was announced here.

Turkish feud

Ankara (Reuters) - A Turkish court sentenced two men to death for killing 14 people in a tribal feud over land rights in a village near the southeastern town of Urfa five years ago.

First BI bomber

Washington (AP) - The first operational BI bomber, the first of a fleet of 100, active service with the US Air Force on June 29, the Defence Department said.

Commons consoles Reagan Syria's efforts fail to end Beirut war

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, asked to tell President Reagan that Britain backed America in not negotiating with terrorism over the TWA hijack, told the Commons: "I will pass on that precise message."

Syria's latest attempts to end the Beirut war between Shia Muslim militiamen and Palestinian guerrillas had precious little effect in the Lebanese capital yesterday, where 11 people were killed and 25 wounded in the fighting around the refugee camps by mid-morning.

The ceasefire plan officially calls for the evacuation of all Palestinian wounded, the camps to be patrolled by Lebanese police units, the withdrawal of Amal and the Lebanese Army's Shia Muslim Sixth Brigade from the camps, the return of homeless Palestinians.

Jews feel angry but powerless

The United States Jewish community, ever wary of inciting reprisals, is watching the confused events in Beirut with a quiet anger.

Bankrupt economy

China sacks its Tibet chief

Tibet's party secretary, Mr Yin Fatang, was replaced last week in a move which appeared to be part of a nationwide pattern of promoting younger and more competent cadres to top posts.

America to aid Russia on crops

Moscow (Reuters) - The United States and the Soviet Union have agreed to resume agricultural co-operation for the first time since relations cooled over Moscow's intervention in Afghanistan.

Philippines weed out army misfits

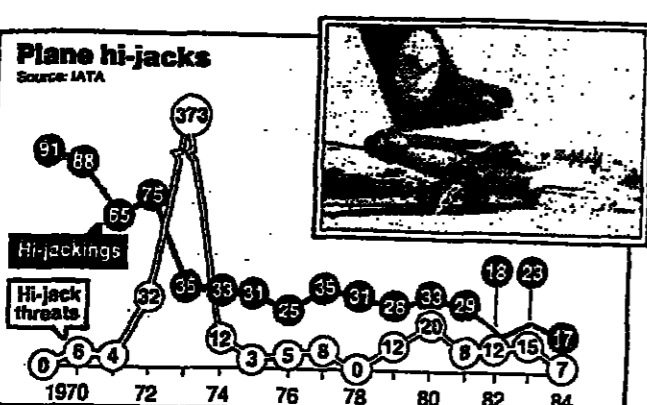
About 1,500 soldiers and policemen are discharged every year for corruption and human rights abuses such as the torture of prisoners and the summary execution of detained suspects.

East and West row over human rights

The future of efforts to shore up the human rights components of the 1975 Helsinki final act appeared in some doubt yesterday after the failure of a Helsinki-line meeting here to take a clear stand.

Royal touch as shuttle launches Arab satellite

The Saudi shuttle Discovery, with a Saudi prince as a crew member, yesterday launched a satellite for the Arab satellite communications organization.



Despite the contrary impression given by recent events, hijacking on world air routes declined steadily over 16 years until last year, according to figures released by the International Air Transport Association.

More bodies found at 'sex prison'

The latest discovery backs up police theories that as many as 25 people may have been kidnapped and murdered. Authorities also said they would begin excavating new sites in the search for bodies after a local youth told detectives he once helped to dig trenches in the area.

The Pentagon's \$7,700 coffee pots

A spokesman for Mr Thomas O'Neill, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, said: "You don't need a commission to find a \$7,700 coffee pot. For five years the Pentagon has been run like a supermarket sweepstakes: grab all you can as fast as you can, price is no object."

Grief unites Turin and Liverpool

A grieving widow of the Brussels football tragedy yesterday choked back tears as the civic leaders of Liverpool and Turin joined hands in friendship.

Gold fraud man killed on camera

Tokyo (AFP, Reuters) - Two men hacked to death by the chairman of a company allegedly involved in a massive gold fraud while television crews filmed the incident live yesterday through a curtained window at his home.

Bankrupt economy

The report also gives numerous examples of ban planning and management of capital investment: 5 million RMB was spent on developing a colliery, but on completion no coal could be excavated.

Philippines weed out army misfits

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Primate meets Poland's leader

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The Polish Primate, Cardinal Jozef Glemp, secretary for months with General Jaruzelski in an attempt to improve relations with the Communist authorities.

They met for more than an hour in a government building covered all the political relations between the two states, including a private farmers' market.

The government, particularly Poland's Communist leadership, said the state responsibility of religious and Communist.

But it has long been clear that the authorities were not interested in a formal agreement between the church and the state.

But the Government was in a phased process of negotiations, primarily with people in the legislative branch.

But the Government remains deeply divided on the subject, with the General Secretary, Mr Jaruzelski, to achieve its goals.

It is the Government's intention to announce the agreement to the public in the near future.

But the Government remains deeply divided on the subject, with the General Secretary, Mr Jaruzelski, to achieve its goals.

But the Government remains deeply divided on the subject, with the General Secretary, Mr Jaruzelski, to achieve its goals.

THE ARTS

Television
Rushed to maturity

The writer and director David Hodgson described his elder brother Bob as "a gently intelligent child", and last night's Letters from a Bomber Pilot, on Thames - in which he remembered him and, incidentally, the 55,000 aircrew of Bomber Command who died during the war - was a gently intelligent, moving film.

Bob Hodgson, second in a south-east London family of 11 children, had dreamed of flying from childhood, joined the RAF at 20 in 1941, and volunteered for aircrew. He won his wings in June 1942 and, in the nine months before his death on a diversionary raid over Bochum in the Ruhr, completed 20 missions. That was 10 short of the operational target of 30, an optimistic total when the chances of survival over a German industrial target were one in 10.

He was first reported missing and his family lived in hope for months, unaware that their father had received confirmation of his death but had not the heart to quench that hope. A younger brother found the Air Ministry letter by accident.

The sense of loss, the family said, was permanent, undiminished by the passage of time. The programme, a combination of archive film, dramatization (with Hugh Laurie as the pilot), old photographs and testimony from brothers, sisters and the woman Bob might have married, was a powerful evocation of the days when youth was willing as Bob Hodgson's letters testified to be pitched into maturity.

Before his last mission, he had survived a ditching in the sea and the writing off of a plane on a routine training flight ("Didn't you want it any more?" asked a wing-commander). The latter mishap earned him a reprimand and a posting but the fierce loyalty of his crew persuaded the RAF to relent and allow him to rejoin his crew.

His Wellington was shot down near Arnhem. The Germans laid the charred bodies alongside the wreckage and forced the population to look at them before handing them over to the Dutch for burial. The bodies of two Canadian members were later moved to their national cemetery, separating in death the crew who had fought to be united in life.

David Hodgson's film was made without nostalgia. It recalled that the bombing did not, as the air chiefs argued, shorten the war nor much affect German morale or production, but it pointed the uselessness of those prepared to make a sacrifice without benefit of hindsight. The example of the Dutch woman who has tended Pilot Officer Hodgson's grave for 40 years shows how deeply it can be appreciated.

Dennis Hackett

Elisabeth Söderström and Kerstin Meyer have both been awarded the CBE. The presentation was made at the British Embassy in Stockholm by the Ambassador, Sir Richard Parsons, on behalf of the Queen. Princess Lilian of Sweden was among those present, as was Moran Caplat, former General Administrator of Glynde-bourne, where both singers have made so many of their British appearances.

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No stairway to paradise: Akhnaten (Christopher Robson) reaches for the sun

Andrew Clark reports from Milan on Lyubimov's staging of the Matthew Passion
Sacred inaction

It all centred on a large white gleaming cross, dripping coldly and deliberately through nearly three and a half hours of music, each drop of water ricocheting through the spotlight as it reached the altar table. This, we were to believe, symbolized the tears of the Cross. A special ice-making machine had been installed on the premises to make a new cross for each performance; singers had caught colds because of their proximity to it; fidgety choir boys ran fingers along its perfectly-formed ridges during those endless arias.

The cross of ice was probably the most enduring image of Yuri Lyubimov's attempt to stage the unstageable - Bach's St Matthew Passion - in Milan's San Marco Church, situated in a quiet piazza a few minutes' walk behind La Scala. The exiled Soviet stage director's latest project has been neither a fiasco nor a fashionable success. It has simply left unanswered the central question of whether any kind of visual representation can illuminate or add an extra dimension to Bach's musical treatment of the Gospel story.

Lyubimov has set the action around an altar table - long enough to accommodate a traditional-looking Last Supper - on a platform in the centre of the transept. The Evangelist

London debut

In the Wigmore Hall the Italian harpist Elena Zamboni never really recovered from a traumatic struggle with the quicker passages in a set of Handel variations. Yet there were hints both here and in some Beethoven variations that she has a pleasing variety of tone colours at her disposal, which she applied with sound musical judgement, often to emphasize details hidden in the texture.

Her biography indicates that most of the Italian avant-garde's senior figures have written works for her. She chose not to reveal this pioneering side of her repertoire, playing instead a tuneful but tame sonata by Dussek. Here her generally stylish approach, marred only by an impetuous fugal accelerando, was again more convincing than her technique.

Richard Morrison

Opera
Theatrical command and musical mastery

Ariadne auf Naxos
Covent Garden

Covent Garden's last shot at Richard Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos* a decade ago carries few fond memories. It was modestly cast, uncertainly staged and indifferently conducted. Small wonder that it ran for only a handful of performances. But ample amends have been made with the production just opened, which arrives in London via Paris's Opera Comique. Everywhere it substitutes strengths for weaknesses: in the assurance of touch from Jeffrey Tate in the pit, in the solid achievement of a cast led by Jessye Norman in the title role and the sheer theatricality of Jean-Louis Martinoty's staging.

And it is on stage that most *Ariadnes* tend to go wrong. The command by the Major Domo to the "richest man in Vienna" to combine the styles of *opera seria* with Zerbinetta's knockabout *commedia dell'arte* troupe causes as much consternation in some producers as it does backstage in Strauss's opera. *Ariadne* can wriggle through the fingers and become a solemn and turgid evening, as it did last winter at Munich when Margaret Price sang her first Primadonna, or, as more often happens, become full of campy jokes that cut right against the grain of the music.

Martinoty sidesteps both traps by insisting that *Ariadne* is as much concerned with the making of theatre as about love, fleeting or long-standing. His Austrian design team of Hans Schavermooh and Lore Haas - wise to go to *Ariadne's* own country to prevent the production becoming too gallic - provide for the Prologue a rabbit-warren of dressing-rooms, where the names on the doors are hastily exchanged, and corridors strewn with detritus of drama. Amidst the clutter which goes into the creation of make-believe, the brief and sudden romance which springs up between the Composer and Zerbinetta

provides a real moment in an unreal world. Ann Murray's Komponist is a close-cropped young visionary with his eyes fixed on some distant horizon of fame, art or even money until he catches sight of Zerbinetta. Miss Murray's mezzo may not have the lustre of that of Trudeliese Schmidt, probably our leading Komponist, but it has a warmth and ease that is never pushed and makes this a most satisfying interpretation.

The Composer and Zerbinetta are still there at the close of the opera proper, eying each other across the stage. That opera - lucky the Major Domo did not insist on *Akhnaten*? - is played virtually in the round with a stage audience (in fancy dress, representing the characters of Strauss's operas among others) on one side and us, the real audience, on the other; in between the technical crew and those awaiting their entrance while away the time as they do in theatres the world over.

Martinoty, using a cast that with one tiny exception is totally different from the Paris one, plays on the personalities of his singers. Jessye Norman, hidden beneath a black cape, looks like a massive outcrop of rock when she is first seen on the desert island of Naxos. She is encouraged to act the primadonna as she searches for consolation or diversion and rewards us all with that rich mahogany tone that wells up from the chest. It has a grandeur quite different from that of Miss Price at Munich and the voice is heard at its most glorious when Ariadne decides to embrace death in "Es gibt ein Reich".

While Europe has been able to 'uncover' two *Ariadnes* of undisputed world class in the past six months there does not appear to be a Bacchus in sight. James King, Covent Garden's choice, has been singing the role for many years and he does not improve with age. The voice is uncomfortably strained at the top on the evidence of Monday's performance, and it was a partial relief when the canopy of stars - pure imitation Klint - finally rose to cover Bacchus and Ariadne. By that time the stage

Glass rejects his opportunity to break the minimal mould

Akhnaten
Coliseum

The great joy of Philip Glass's opera comes when you stagger out and find real people so gloriously alive. Inside the theatre it is a case of three hours with the walking dead: dead not with the death of those who were nicely tucked up in their sarcophagi three thousand years ago, but with the brain-death of repetition.

There is a certain inevitability about this contact between the most repetitive of repetitive composers and a culture geared so much to repeating itself, a culture of pyramids built unchangingly brick upon brick, of texts written with a disregard for redundancy, of rigid artistic styles, of pharaohs succeeding one another in exactly the same

role. Indeed, this fixity of Egypt suggests that Glass might just as well have written an opera called *Pepi I, or Rameses II*, or even - perhaps most particularly given the coincidence of his treatment - *Ptolemy IV Philopator*.

Except that Akhnaten was the one ruler to break the mould. Here surely was the opportunity for an opera that created strict patterns and then burst them open to discover something quite new, paralleling Akhnaten's monotheistic hypothesis and his establishment of the new city of Akhetaten. But, though this turns out to be very much the scheme of Glass's opera, his music for the new religion is not in essence any different from what precedes and follows it. We are regaled all through with regular pulse, repeating units ranging from an arpeggio to a short harmonic progression,

and block structures: stern pyramids of sound.

It is, however, worse than that. The fit between Egypt and Glass is too good: it has encouraged him to check what remained in his music of vibrancy and alertness; it has also enhanced his tendency to view the small elements of his music as meaningful in themselves rather than as features in a design. All over the place his orchestra and voices are speaking the deadening language of the picturesque. Slow harmonic chains become professional, puppet escalations are new. *Bananas*, *cello ipogegios* expressive of emptiness. It is as if Scurat, having developed his pointilliste technique, turned his attention to making paintings of rainbow sugar, the likeness is true, but his sugar has lost all its point.

One is therefore left, as David Freeman suggested in his interview

here on Monday, with a wide empty canvas on which to create a production. What Mr Freeman actually achieves is often remarkable. The stage is a miniature stylized Egypt: all sand and a channel of water. Changelessness is kept in view throughout the evening by having fellahin go repeatedly through the motions of threshing corn and making bricks, while decelerated motion is, somewhat less obviously, portrayed in a bout among six sumo wrestlers. Otherwise the stage is filled with monuments (replaced in the Aten scenes by a huge solar disc) and with frequently elaborate patterns of movement: people trudging about, darting between statuesque poses, fondling each other. It is, as one expects from Mr Freeman, a very physical, carnal production.

The carnality is emphasized by the extraordinary make-up devised

by Christopher Tucker Studios to place the hermaphroditic, hydrocephalic image of Akhnaten on the body of Christopher Robson, who behaves like someone part child, part god and part wholly alien, and who sings in the same beautiful but strange way. Richard Angus cuts an imposing figure as the leader of the official opposition, and there are esoterically luscious performances from Sally Burgess and Marie Angel as the queens. Paul Daniel has charge of a score which must be staggeringly boring to play and conduct.

Credit for the work's being much less boring to see must go to the designer David Roger and to Mr Freeman, who deftly weaves in suggestions of Akhnaten as mentor to Moses and prototype of Oedipus while hinting at the end that the real call we have observed emerge is that of Narcissus.

Paul Griffiths



"The sublime Weegees": Street Vendor Selling in Bar (1943)

Galleries
Richly varied individual skills

American Images
Barbican

Large photographic exhibitions can be a bit of a problem: so many little black squares on the wall may all too easily weary the eye and dull the mind. The American Festival exhibition *American Images* at the Barbican Art Gallery until June 30, almost escapes his strictures. For one thing, it bursts into colour about three-quarters of the way through its advertised course from 1945 to 1980, and the effect is unexpectedly tonic, whatever one's traditional reservations about colour in the art. For another, the history of American photography since the Second World War is so rich in varied and highly individual talents that we have little chance to get settled into a particular pattern of mind before we are jolted out of it and set off on something else.

The very variety perhaps works against the show in another way. The organizers insist that it is not meant to be a

representative survey, but a somewhat didactic show, making, or at least examining, particular points about the Americanness of American photography, the passage, as they see it, "from humanism to formalism". Maybe such a theme is articulated on the walls, but amid such riches and diversity, I would defy anyone to pick it out for himself.

It is certainly much easier to meditate on what it is that makes an artist specifically American in the context of a one-man show such as that devoted to Paul Caponigro's primarily landscape work, in and out of America, at Watermans Art Centre, Brentford, closing today. The hundreds of images at the Barbican just dazzle, which implies excitement but also confusion.

In the circumstances it is reasonable that only such photographers should have been selected as are felt to contribute something new to the show's argument, but since the argument needs a lot of annotation it is equally reasonable to wonder as one goes

round: why no Avedon? why no Mapplethorpe? and so on. It does seem also - or is this just the insidious working of fashion? - that at this distance of time the "formalist" end of the spectrum works generally better than the "humanist".

Apart from the sublime Weegee, the earlier documentary photographers (and the recent ones for that matter) often seem to depend too heavily on our humane reactions to their scary material rather than on any noticeably aesthetic response, while even the earlier classics like Ansel Adams or Kertesz triumph through their formal qualities, not merely their subject-matter. But if Irving Penn, Edward Weston, the surrealistic master of found objects Clarence John Laughlin, and the poet of the silent majority Robert Frank stand out, even in this company, it is really a triumph. And if Diane Arbus does not any more seem so decorative, well, that's just the way the cookie crumbles...

John Russell Taylor

RPO/Previn
Festival Hall/Radio 3

The last time I wrote about a complete performance of Ravel's *Daphnis and Chloé* I expressed the opinion that the work, beautifully conceived though it is, was perhaps a little long to maintain one's interest without the visual element to complement it. Well, André Previn's performance with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra convinced me otherwise, making it plain that in this form he is the right choice as the RPO's new music director.

One has always assumed that Previn, showman that he is, would be able to do justice to the more extrovert moments of any score, and he duly did so here, helped by the swagging confidence of the brass and percussion sections. More unexpectedly, he was able to evoke all the ripeness and mystery of the more subdued, static moments, creating an atmosphere which was thoroughly intoxicating.

He had to be helped, of course, by some excellent playing. Of the soloists, the first horn showed quite remarkable coolness in his several unfurling accents to a pianissimo high note, while the flute's evocation of Chloé's portrayal of Syrinx near the end was utterly spellbinding, thanks largely to his artful variation of tone quality. Good work, too, from the principal oboe and cor anglais, and from the string section, which seems these days to improve almost with every concert.

The American composer Jacob Druckman may not quite be Ravel's equal as an orchestra, but he is nevertheless more gifted than most at handling the medium. Indeed much of the interest in his *Aurore*, composed for the New York Philharmonic in 1979, lies in its use of ever-changing, swirling blocks of colour, with particularly resourceful deployment of the percussion section. The work is also well written from a rhythmic point of view, going in fits and starts, how violent, how poetic, while possessing an unmistakable coherence.

I am, not sure about the sudden outbreak of metrical regularity that signals its coda, however, and for all its merits, and the persuasiveness of these performers, in the end the work sounded whimsical rather than substantial.

Between these works, Pinchas Zukerman gave an account of

Concert

Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto that was predictably sweet-toned and less predictably smattered with idiosyncrasies. But this was at least a characterful performance, and as such much to be preferred to the blandness that is all too often to be encountered in this age of conveyor-belt virtuosos.

Stephen Pettitt

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SPECTRUM

Bitter confrontation is in the Shetlands pipeline as the North Sea oilmen celebrate 10 years of success

Black gold or a black future?

A multi-million pound war has been declared by the Shetland Islands on Shell and BP. Alan Franks reports on the anger of a people who fear that they will become victims of a boom that turns to bust

The Shetland Islands are locked in a multi-million pound oil war with Shell and BP at the giant Sullom Voe terminal. The outcome will have a crucial effect on the future of the islands and their remote community of 23,000 long after the oil fields have been exhausted.

The local authority, the Shetland Islands Council (SIC), is demanding an annual rent of £90 million for the terminal's 1,200-acre site; the companies are willing to pay just £300,000, a figure based on the value of the deserted peatlands before they were developed 10 years ago. So far the industry has paid no rent at all; if the council were to win all that it is asking for, the total arrears by the end of this year would amount to about £400 million — a sum which would enable the islands to sustain the new prosperity through investment in their own industries.

Beneath the polite exchanges of town hall and terminal in the splendid isolation of Britain's northernmost outpost lies the bitterness of a people who fear that once again they are to become the victims of a boom that turns to bust and the resentment of an international industry which believes it has already done more than enough to raise the quality of life in Shetland.

By January 18 this year the council finally ran out of patience and served a summons through the Court of Sessions in Edinburgh on Shell UK Ltd and BP Petroleum Development Ltd, respectively the leading companies in the groups involved with the Brent and Ninian pipelines. The aim was to force the companies to reach a formal agreement with the SIC on the terms of its lease; it was also a clear statement that the council was prepared to resort to the costly measures of litigation if necessary. There are councillors who believe that they are fighting for nothing less than their islands' survival.

The summons was subsequently cited, or set aside, for the industry to respond. On May 21 the management of the terminal wrote to the chief executive of the council, Mr Michael Gerrard, declaring that

it would offer its reaction to the rent demand within 28 days. That deadline expired yesterday, by which time no letter had arrived at the town hall in Lerwick.

The great irony of this struggle is that the terminal, the biggest in Europe, started life as a unique exercise in co-operation between a local authority, and a force of industrial incomers. In 1975, with nearly 30 companies involved in the 12 oilfields already discovered offshore, the Sullom Voe Association was formed, owned half by the SIC and half by the industry. It was set up as a non-profit-making limited liability company to serve as a forum for discussion as development got underway.

Three years later came the Sullom Voe Port and Harbour Agreement, under which the SIC was to receive payments related to the amount of oil and gas passing through the terminal. This money was to go into a charitable trust for the relief of social hardship on the islands and the setting up of new industry.

Even the most sceptical Shetlanders concede that many of the early ideals have been fulfilled. Although oil has taken over from Fair Isle sweaters and small ponies as the dominant part of the islands' public image, it has not defiled the place. Thanks to some meticulous landscaping and the natural seclusion of the Voe (inlet), you can drive all round the region and hardly notice the 300ft gas stack with its flame of waste gas catches the eye from the main road to the north.

The trouble is that under the Disturbance Agreements between the council and the industry, the payments based on quantity have not lived up to expectations. Although the terminal expects soon to pass the two billion gallon mark for the total of the total of oil ashore in its lifetime, it has not reached the rate of two million barrels per day predicted by the oil companies in 1974.

In addition, the council's rate revenue from Sullom Voe has been reduced by 40 per cent to £20 million through the pro-

visions of industrial de-rating legislation.

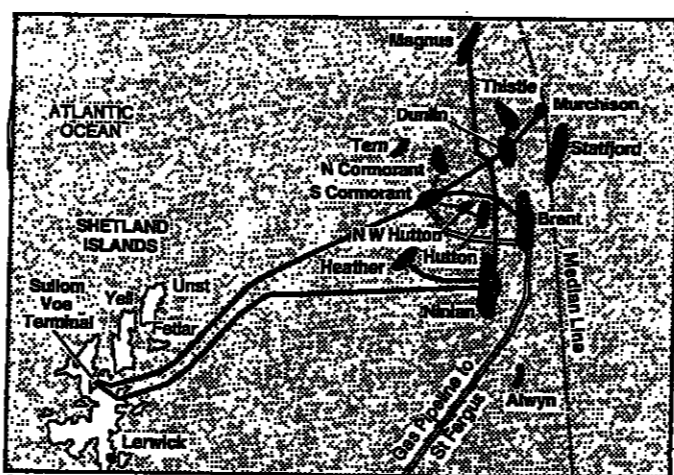
In all, the council is making about £45 million a year from the terminal, composed of the rates, the import levy of 1.4p a barrel, and the capital cost profit on the harbour jetty. That seems a handsome enough sum for the council of such a small community. Indeed, as BP is quick to point out, about 80 per cent of the authority's entire rate revenue comes from the terminal.

The most peculiar thing about this tangled latter-day Norse saga is that no agreement was reached either during the construction stage or later, when the oil started to flow. The companies were prepared to pay £300,000, which, with the movement of land prices since 1974 is equivalent to £750,000. They argued that the SIC was entitled to a rent based only on the acquisition cost of the bare land — £3 million.

Outwardly at least, their position remains unchanged, while the council argues that under Scottish law all permanent fixtures on the Sullom Voe site belong to the council and must be reflected in the rental figure.

Neither side is entirely clear about why no formal arrangement was made from the beginning. Michael Gerrard believes that since the council and the oil companies were negotiating on so many different fronts, the rent question simply got pushed to the back of the agenda. "For example, we spent the whole of 1984 negotiating disturbance agreements. When there are so many matters under discussion, you concentrate on the areas where agreement seems to be possible, and you press ahead with those."

For the islanders, the question has become not just one of legal but of moral justice — and of the condition in which the



Exploration wells started:		Major offshore pipelines commissioned:	
1975	1980	1975	1980
79	32	3	4
106	106	2	2
Oil production (million tonnes):		Annual development expenditure (million pounds): OIL	
1975	1980	1975	1980
105.8	80.5	1,507.4	2,163.0
125.9	125.9	Annual development expenditure (million pounds): GAS	
Gas production (million cu m):		1975	1980
By 1978	1980	373.5	216.8
280,523	37,290	40,162	1,271.2
New oil production platforms:			
1975	1980	1984	
6	3	3	

islands are left when the oil expires. Yet even without the proposed £90 million a year, the state of the charitable trust is buoyant. Started in 1981, it stands today at £50 million, much of it invested in London in British, US and Japanese equities. Thanks to this money, the council has been able to carry out major improvements in housing, education and leisure facilities.

What would have happened to Shetland without the oil remains a matter of fierce debate. Dr Jonathan Willis, former news editor of *The Shetland Times*, has no doubts: "Since the 1960s the markets for Shetland's fish, lamb and knitwear have declined... it is not difficult to imagine what life would now be like without the money from the oil industry."

Yet it is precisely that industry which has helped to quicken Shetland's desire to preserve its own identity, and the clash between the council and the oil companies is being observed with keen interest by the Shetland Movement, a group formed a few years ago to campaign for greater autonomy. It believes that the needs of peripheral communities are being ever more swamped by central demands. Brussels, even more than London, is seen as the villain of the piece.

It is a community well used to seeing livings come and go — from the crofters evicted during the great clearances, to the

Last of the seabed monoliths

Jim Taylor, safety officer on the BP Magnus platform, placed a hand on a thick cluster of pipes. "There", he said. "You can feel old Mother Earth protesting." The metal was fever-warm and shook with raw energy. The pipe went 700ft from the seabed, one end plugged into the complex of separation and process systems on the platform, the other puncturing a reservoir of oil 4,000 feet down.

Technology continues to subvert nature beneath the North Sea with increasing skill. In the old days — that is, 10 years ago — the grey waters were a Klondyke of exploration rigs. The oil industry, with its tough new frontiersmen, was working furiously and often by the seat of its pants for a cash return from the billions sunk into the seabed.

Now the pioneers have gone: "The Parachute Regiment has been relieved by the Pay Corps" as one engineer put it. The Department of Energy keeps a scrooge's eye on the flare stacks, and the production phase has made factories of the North Sea structures. American accents are a rarity where they were once the norm, although the raw statistics of Magnus still have a larger-than-life Texan ring to them.

The platform earns £5 million a day, or more than £3,000 a minute, in revenue. It cost £1.3 billion to build and install and is attaching the 565m barrels of oil recoverable from the Magnus field at a rate of 120,000 barrels a day. The reserves will last until the next century. The platform's three gas turbines produce enough power to supply an average size city and the whole thing, with its nine storeys of modules, is more than 65,000 tonnes. The paint protecting the legs and lattice work of steel alone weights 800 tonnes.

The Magnus platform simultaneously produces oil and gas for transport by pipeline to Sullom Voe in Shetland and St Fergus on the mainland, whilst drilling for more, projecting drill heads more than 3k away from the platform and at an angle of 80° from it.

Magnus could be the last of the seabed monoliths. Even as the structure was being built, it was outstripped by the new technology to develop future deep water finds. Control by computer and remote electronics is now feasible and reliably tested to operate sealed well-heads from which oil could be piped ashore or fed to tanker loading booms.

Magnus is a far cry in comfort and technology from what was available 10 years ago. A normal working day is followed by free time with

cinema, videos and satellite-linked television available, as well as a library and a gymnasium with on-the-spot jogging machines. Even with 200 crew members, the huge structure at times can give the impression of being almost deserted.

The food maintains the legendary North Sea standard in quality and quantity, with any cut of steak you wish, spare ribs in honey and a host of other delicacies that look out of place in a canteen. Bill Jolley, in charge of catering, says that North Sea workers eat less these days. Perhaps that was because all the heavy, labour-intensive work on Magnus was largely over or because people were becoming more diet-conscious.

Food was as much furnace fuel as something to be enjoyed in the days when there was such great urgency to get the oil fields into production. "On some American-run rigs the pressure was on to such an



Oil giant: the Magnus rig. extent that they took off all the lavatory doors so no one could waste time in there", one man recalled.

Crews quickly discover whether the life suits them. Max Field, a State Registered Nurse who runs the sick-bay, said some workers severely disliked the long helicopter flight from Aberdeen and others flinched every time a big wave shook the platform. Only rarely did absence from home cause matrimonial problems. "About half the workers are ex-service men who know all about being away from home and whose families understand", he said.

The jobs are still sought after because of the money for a rota of two weeks offshore and two weeks on. The average offshore wage is around £20,000 a year

all found and up to £50,000 for senior staff, which helps balance the disadvantages. For this privilege workers have to accept a much stricter discipline than in industry ashore. To be found in possession of alcohol or drugs, for example, means instant dismissal or "return to the beach", as the oilmen put it.

Kathy Elliott, aged 23, an assistant production engineer on Magnus and one of four women who work on the platform, was keen that offshore work should be available to more women. "It's not exactly what I would choose for a full-time living, but if something is too heavy for a woman to lift a man should not be trying to lift it either. In production engineering the job and the offshore routine are very enjoyable, although it would be better to get more women into the job. As it is, I'm spoiled rotten."

What impresses about Magnus is the degree to which the scientist, the computer specialist and the white collar engineer command the scene. The control room ranks as a giant junction box, focal point for 750,000 terminals that control and monitor every valve and switch on the platform.

I watched a rare event during my two days on Magnus: the complete and automatic shutdown of production from the platform. The emergency began as red lights spread in a rash across the indicator panels in the control room, registering that a fault had developed and that all production and drilling had halted. As controllers mumbled telephones and computer screens, hard-hatted engineers rushed to the control room to "report in their working boots", which is forbidden under normal circumstances. Revenue was being lost at the rate of more than £2,500 a minute until — within minutes — the fault had been traced to a loose wire on an external control switch which had triggered the automatic halt.

"Ten years ago that would have taken hours to pin down", said Luke Lewis, aged 44, offshore installation manager. He finished off the official log report on the incident and the last few waves of paper work before it was time to slip into survival suit and life-jacket for the flight back to Aberdeen from the platform's helideck. His home is in the south, near Peeble harbour where BP plan to develop an offshore oilfield in the face of strong local opposition. The differences in attitude did bring home the advantage of having an oil rig in the middle of the sea, where nobody could see it.

Ronald Faux

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Splashing out for another soaking

COMMENT

I have a sodden shirt draped over the back of a nearby chair, and an even more saturated object hanging on the door, because once again I have been trying out that national disaster, the great British raincoat.

This may sound pitiable to charitable foreigners from warm climates who, having given up the idea that we swim perpetually in fog, are still convinced that the British are efficiently amphibious. Generations of experience must surely have taught us to cope with the rain, as other northern nations manage to cope with their own unpleasant weather. Not so.

On the streets of London it is predominantly the Americans and the Japanese who wear the great Burberry look in expensive, presumably impermeable, raincoats and flat, golfing-style brogues. Thus equipped they can walk from one end of Hyde Park to another in a thunderstorm, while British women, in high heels and mini-skirts, huddle in doorways or under umbrellas.

"Is it rainproof?" I asked the salesman in a reputable women's clothing shop in Regent Street, before spending £60 or so on a cotton and polyester trenchcoat made, an

unobtrusive label confesses, in Korea. I was already sodden from bicycling in its flimsier predecessor, which let water through the front and sleeves until the dress underneath resembled a wet blanket. I would have bought almost anything if it promised a greater degree of dryness.

"Showstopper, Madam," was the answer. So it is, if you limit your exposure to the rain to a five-minute flit, and avoid contact with the insides of the sleeves. Shoppers of raincoats are sold merely for the appearance of being waterproof.

If Madam intends to get wet, perhaps she should try something a little more specialized. For example, one of those cycling capes you have to anchor to your wrists to prevent them from enveloping your head in a gale. Or the streamlined anorak and plastic overtrousers favoured by the racing-bicycle set. Or, higher up the social scale, one of those lingeringly smelly, rubber riding macs.

Class comes into the question of raincoats as in so many areas.

Outside primary schools you can single out the middle-class mothers by their brightly-coloured plastic raincoats and wellingtons as they meet their similarly-clad children. Working-class mothers dress, on the whole, to ignore the rain, defending themselves with a pained expression and perhaps a cardigan or umbrella.

In 20 years, I have spent more than I care to think of on cheap and ultimately useless forms of raincoat. As a student I bought a black PVC raincoat for a pound, wore it on a bright sunny day, and was disappointed to feel it melting at one shoulder as an arm completely detached itself from the body. Since then, economizing, I have gone for long periods without a raincoat at all.

Today I will go home, rip out the sleeve-linings of the trenchcoat in which I so unwisely invested, and insert a lining made from plastic bags.

If that does not work, I may follow up a stiff letter to the shop from which I bought it with an even stiffer, but more helpless, one. Or perhaps someone can come up with the answer.

Brigid Allen

TOMORROW

The Times Profile on the Queen Mother as she approaches her 85th birthday

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 674)

CROSSWORD grid with clues: 1 Coy (6), 2 Stroke (6), 3 Etienne (4), 4 Farnished (8), 5 Spanish maiden (8), 13 Not on (3), 16 Enhancement (13), 17 Case to exist (3), 19 Mutes (8), 24 Longfellow Indian poem (8), 25 Shivering fit (4), 26 Verse (6), 27 Scattered refuse (6), 13 Omission (9), 14 Destiny (4), 15 Fertilized ovule (4), 18 Imbecile (5), 20 Extreme (5), 21 Fight (5), 22 Wander idly (4), 23 Nobleman (4), SOLUTION TO No 673, ACROSS: 1 Rancid, 2 Tame, 3 Owning, 9 Melodic, 11 Quilting, 13 Kilt, 15 Expeditionary, 17 Aile, 18 Faithful, 21 Alveoli, 22 Babes, 23 Fret, 24 Esteem, DOWN: 2 Ailthi, 3 Cog, 4 Demonstrative, 5 Told, 6 Madeira, 7 Tequemada, 10 Candy, 12 Lids, 14 Doll, 16 Palaver, 19 Fable, 20 Sole, 22 Bet.

Rich pic

WEDNESDAY PAGE

The secret love of Mrs Wilde

If there was ever a woman who would be forgiven for having an affair, it was the long-suffering, gentle, violet-eyed creature whose fate it was to be Mrs Oscar Wilde. The astonishing news is that she appears to have done so.

A forthcoming manuscript sale at Sotheby's includes a couple of literary time bombs found in an attic trunk among the personal papers of a certain Arthur Humphreys, a former head of Hatchesards booksellers in London's Piccadilly. They are two love letters written to him by Oscar's wife Constance. The first, dated June 1, 1894, is obviously written at the dawn of what we can call *'The Affair'*, although in the 1890s it was a more spiritual and less physical situation than is understood by the term today.

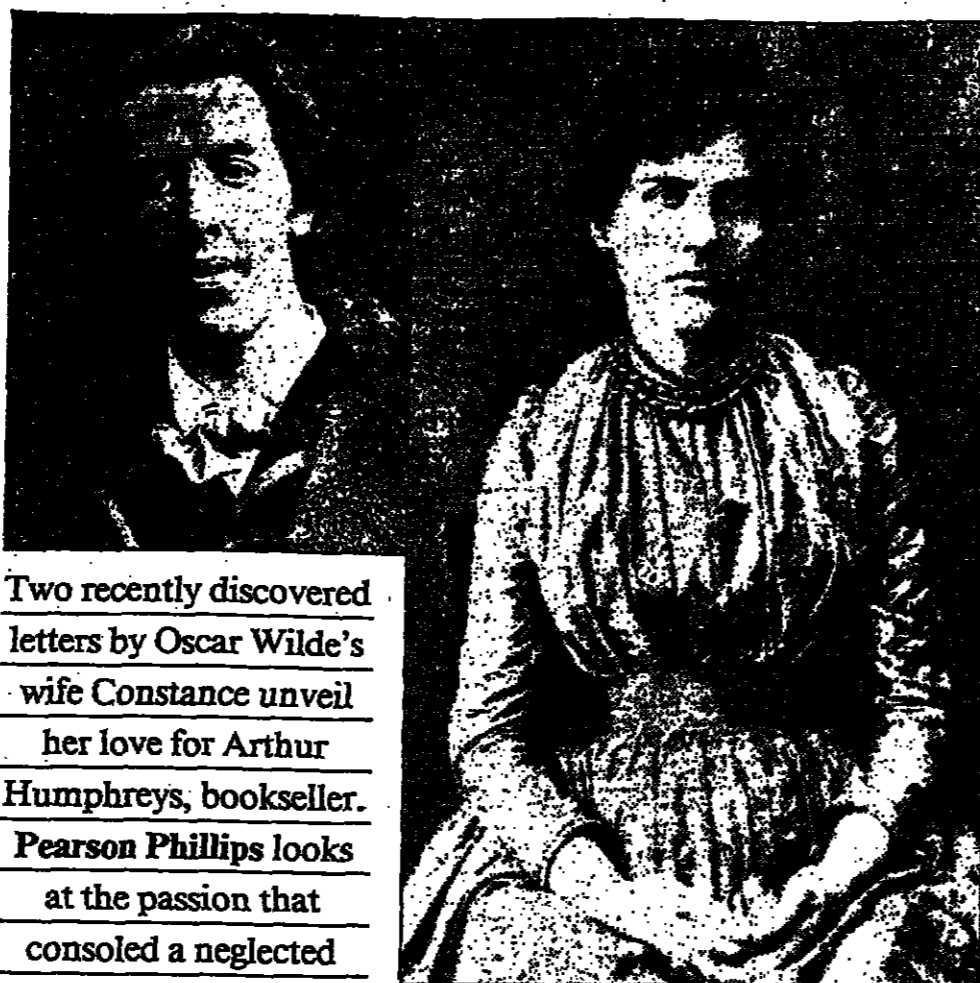
They had apparently met and talked the day before. "I feel as tho' I must write you one line to emphatically repeat my remark that you are an ideal husband, indeed I think you are an ideal man". She confesses to being a natural hero-worshipper and adds: "Somewhere near the head of my list I now put you".

The "one line" bubbled on for eight pages. "I liked you and was interested in you, and I saw that you were good, and it is rarely that I come across a man that has that written on his face." As is often the case on these occasions, she had a few qualms about how far the previous day's conversation had gone. "I stepped past the limits perhaps of good taste in the wish to be your friend and to have you for my friend. I spoke to you very openly about myself and I confess that I should not like you to repeat what I said about my childhood. I am afraid it was wrong to speak as bitterly as I did."

She makes her position quite clear. What she wants is friendship. "I am intuitive, and it is perfectly true that after I parted from you yesterday I knew as clearly as I do today that you stand on a pinnacle high above me, and that your marriage was made for the sake of good, was the result of your character and so was ideal. . . I am slow at making friends, but those I make are very dear to me, and what is dear to one is sacred."

The second letter is dated August 11, 1894. Much was happening to Constance. It was the time when even she was forced to acknowledge that Oscar had effectively deserted her and the two children for Lord Alfred Douglas. Instead of coming home to their house in Tite Street, he chose to live in hotels, pleading that he needed the peace and quiet away from the family in order to work.

"Reading was usually his hobby. He would suddenly vanish abroad on trips, without even leaving Constance his address. While Oscar was becoming ever more fatally entangled with his 'friend', Constance was



Two recently discovered letters by Oscar Wilde's wife Constance unveil her love for Arthur Humphreys, bookseller. Pearson Phillips looks at the passion that consoled a neglected and lonely woman

intensifying the relationship with hers.

All this has come as something of a shock to the Oscar Wilde industry. Sir Rupert Hart-Davis, editor of *The Letters of Oscar Wilde* (and who has a new hitherto unpublished selection coming out shortly) knows as much about Oscar and his world as anyone. But he didn't know about this, until he was shown the letters recently.

"I can't honestly say I am surprised," he says. "She was a woman who badly needed some solace and affection from someone, because she wasn't getting any from Oscar. Everything was fine between them in the beginning but in the end he neglected her. I am not shocked by it, because I am sure it never went further. There was no consummation of the relationship. She just needed someone to pay her some attention."

Mrs Wilde herself has always been a shadowy figure. But she has been the subject of two recent biographies, one which attempts to bring her into focus as a woman of taste and culture,

though at the same time suffering from naivety. Both are wide of the mark about her relationship with Arthur Humphreys. Anne Clark Amor (*Mrs Oscar Wilde*, Sidgwick and Jackson) holds that "Constance's relations with Humphreys, while excellent where business was concerned were less happy at a personal level". She bases this on a third letter which appears to show them arguing about social welfare and the London poor.

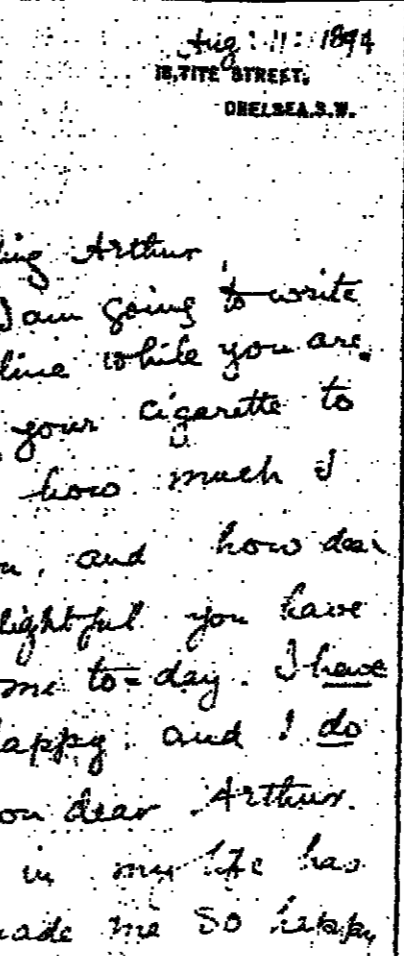
Joyce Bentley in *The Importance of Being Constance* (Robert Hale) manages to spell Arthur's name wrongly and puts him down as "a friend, whom she met at Pre-Raphaelite Society meetings, and with whom she had 'friendly arguments of a philanthropic nature'". There was, she adds, "a delightful archness in their relationship".

But what was it really all about? At the time of the letters Constance was 36. Arthur was 29, a great favourite with all Hatchesards customers. He was a good bookseller, who left school at 14, joined Hatchesards at 16

and became a partner in a managerial buy-out of the firm at 26. No matter how rare a book he would know where a copy might be found. People in society took a fancy to him and he developed a profitable line in setting up libraries for the owners of country houses.

Reading between the lines of a history of the firm written by James Laver it seems that Constance Wilde was not the only woman to receive solace from him. Mr Laver writes that "in those early days the young bookseller seems to have made almost a 'corner' in *Grandes Dames* and in after life he often remembered with pleasure the successions - one might almost call them a frieze - of beautiful and noble ladies who passed through the doors of Hatchesards and whose custom it was to ask for 'Mr Humphreys'".

He himself, writing about some of his customers, singles out for special mention a species called "The American Girl Tourist... vivacious and bright when discussing her favourite author."



Personal papers; from left, Oscar Wilde, Constance and one of her love letters

The August letter begins "My Darling Arthur" and ends "Your always devotedly loving Constance". She is now down to four pages, written "to tell you how much I love you, and how dear and delightful you have been to me today. I go on: 'I have been happy, and I do love you dear Arthur. Nothing in my life has ever made me so happy as this love of yours to me has done. . . I love you because you are, and because you have come into my life to fill it with love and make it rich'".

She also says she loves him for being "dear to the children, and nice to Oscar too. . .". She ends by saying: "I shall try to give you this, and if I can't, I shall post it. I shall come up on Thursday, so let me have a letter when I arrive please". From that, we are reminded of the way these things were handled before the age of the telephone. A normal public relationship on the surface, sustained by a secret, passionate life lived through surreptitiously exchanged letters.

For there was a strong public relationship between Arthur and

Constance at this time. In those days Hatchesards was a book publisher as well as a bookseller and a general meeting place of the literati and glitterati. It was Hatchesards who published the last book by Wilde to appear before his trial and imprisonment in 1895. This was a collection of aphorisms and witticisms culled from his called *Constance*. And it was Constance who had the job of choosing them, which meant that she would have had dealings with Arthur Humphreys over the production of the book.

It was also Arthur who later did his own small bit for feminine progress by devoting a whole window display to Marie Stopes's *Married Love* in 1918.

Did Oscar know about it? In the first letter Constance assures Arthur that "I speak of you in terms of high praise to everyone, but it is unnecessary to give reasons for so doing". It is therefore probable that her husband knew of her feelings for the bookseller. Oscar certainly liked him himself, and got him seats for his plays when they were "like gold dust".

Arthur, for his part, was one of the few who did not desert Oscar after his fall. He sent him a present of a book to Reading Jail.

In August 1894, at the time of the second letter, Oscar was in Worthing, writing *The Importance of Being Earnest*. In a letter to the producer George Alexander he also sketched out the plot of another play, about a man of rank and fashion "who marries a simple sweet country girl - a lady - but simple". He invites a fashionable crowd to his country place and tells his wife not to mind if people flirt with her. One of the guests is a man who used to admire her. "Flirt with him as much as you like," says the husband.

The outcome is horrific. The flirtation turns to genuine love. The wife abandons her husband for her lover. The husband commits suicide. "I want the passion of love to dominate everything," says Oscar.

Was it just a coincidence that his idea formed in Oscar Wilde's head while his wife was in the midst of developing a passion for Arthur? His own final disaster was a kind of suicide, mostly self-inflicted.

Curiously enough, that play, which was never written, was to have been called *Constance*.

As the current manager of Hatchesards, Mr Geoffrey Bailey said when I told him of the letters: "Goodness me".

Mrs Wilde's letters will be included in a manuscript sale on July 22 at Sotheby's, Bond Street, London W1.

Fast, and wait for the rains



They waded us down on the sun-baked, red dirt road. It was midday. The heat, as usual, was atrocious. Six men - half of them dressed in the long traditional robes, the others western style - clustered around the bush taxi. It had stopped as our pickup came into view out of the heat haze. They all spoke at once. Were we going to Kerewan? Could we take an extra passenger?

Slowly the fragment of a story emerged. The wife of the police chief at Kerewan had run away from home. Here she was and they wanted us to take her back. Reluctantly but quietly the lady in question, head bowed, climbed in beside me. Dazed by the heat and the speed of events we asked no more questions. The unhappy lady seemed to accept her fate, perhaps because she had nowhere to go anyway. "It's the fast," said the taxi driver, as if this explained everything. The fast, of course, was Ramadan, which leaves millions of bellies empty throughout the Third World, especially in The Gambia, where its grip is tightest. It ends this week.

Six hours later back in Kerewan, "county town" of The Gambia's North Bank Division, the chief of police felt he owed us a more of an explanation. The wife had run away over a bag of sugar. He asked all five of us from the pick-up - three African men and two white women - to confirm that he was right in giving the sugar to his second wife. The husband's name was Ramadan. "It is my duty, no? But my first wife here, she is pregnant. She got jealous. Why am I not sending sugar to her mother? She went away and now I have to cook myself and break my fast."

This seemed the final blow to his injured pride. He had filled in the details with a weak smile.

'By day two of Ramadan, tempers have shortened'

fixing each of us in turn with anxious bloodshot eyes. Self doubt? No, this too was the strain of the fast.

By day two of Ramadan, tempers have shortened. It takes time for the body to adjust to taking no food between dawn and dusk (if it ever does), particularly when the temperature is hitting the humdrums. In the villages of The Gambia - where 85 per cent of the country's 800,000 population lives - Koranic law is strictly observed. Apart from pregnant women, everyone over 15 keeps the fast. It becomes an obsession. Added to the traditional exchanges of greeting - "Salaam Malekum", "Malekum Salaam", "Where are your people?", "Where are yours?" - comes the question, "How is the fast?" by afternoon the centre of village life, the wooden couch under the main tree is littered with sleeping bodies.

But why do they do it? The reasons given are various, not all of them to do with the teachings of the prophet Mohammed. Many say it is good for the health. A slightly corpulent civil servant elaborates: he has high blood pressure and an annual period of absence keeps his condition under control.

For the peasants, however, the fast is no good health cure, rather an effort to save the lives. As the women grow the rice together and the men pray together, so the village fasts together. It is part of the cycle of life: you fast, you feast; you plough, you sow; and you wait for the rains.

In town this ritual calendar no longer exists and the attitude is generally more ambivalent. I heard of an official in Banjul who hides his cup of tea in a desk drawer to receive visitors.

This is a bad year for the good Muslims of The Gambia. The lunar month of Ramadan, which slips backwards about 10 days a year, now falls just before the rains. Officially the rainy season begins on May 1 but, as the Sahara creeps closer every year, the earliest rains are delayed well beyond then. They are now expected sometime this month and the first rain should coincide with the end of the fast. The habitual wide Gambian smile will be seen in its full bloom again. The sugar bag will most probably be forgotten. But it is still an issue in the household of the good chief of police of Kerewan, Islam provides the solution. He can always get himself another wife.

Isabel O'Keefe

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Rich picnics for salad days

Taking an optimistic view of the weather for tennis, bucolic opera, the regatta and other occasions which call for something dressier than a cheese and pickle sandwich, I have been thinking about picnics. Glyndebourne is the stiffest test of the food's endurance. It will very likely be prepared in the morning, travel to Sussex on a warm summer's afternoon and be laid out on the lawn until the interval. Then, like a travelling player, it must make its entrance bandbox fresh.

As if that was not a tall enough order, portable meals pose other problems too. Ideally the food should be suitable for eating with a fork while, at the same time avoiding the cut-up anonymity of high-chair fare. If the weather is warm enough for eating out in comfort the *chaud-froid* will be more than adequate and the soft fruit, strawberries and raspberries and only the booze, safe and cool in those chilled plastic sleeves is the one thing that no one today has any excuse for getting wrong.

Perhaps Charles Carter, whose speciality was cooking for "grand and sumptuous entertainments" had the right idea back in 1730 when he had this to say in *The Complete Practical Cook* on the subject of "travelling loaves".

"Take Chickens or Pullets, pheasants or Partridges or Rabbits, and a Neck of Mutton or Lamb, and roast it off cold, and cut your Fowl in Joins, and your Mutton into Cutlets; take large French Loaves of three Pence apiece, or other Bread; cut a Hole in the Top, and scoop out most Part of the Crumb, you may put Fowl into one Loaf, Mutton or Lamb into another, a Salad-Magony into another, and stic'd Ham and Tongue into another, putting a little Salt in a Paper with your fresh Meat; and as you travel you may eat any where on the Road in your Coach, carrying Home Bordes of Drink like-wise."

A fine loaf is still a more appealing container than plastic wrap or suppareware. It is even disposable and biodegradable if there are no ducks or sparrows about to tidy up the crusts.

Charles Carter's loaf idea is worth reconsidering as a container for say, bread and butter or watercrust sandwiches to accompany a plate of smoked fish or poultry. In this case two loaves are needed, one to make the sandwiches and one for the container.

Several courses are a nuisance at a picnic, especially if they all require different plates. Instead I try to plan a meal with elements that harmonize in several combinations, at the same time avoiding mayonnaise, however good, as a



Shona Crawford Poole

common denominator of too many dishes.

It is really not difficult to banish wilting greenstuff and still have a good selection of appetizing salads which are indifferent to the heat. Indeed many are much better for not being chilled, like baked stuffed vegetables, potato salad, *celeriac remoulade*, or mixed vegetables *à la grecque*.

Cold poached salmon, roast chicken, ham and beef are the traditionally popular picnic choices. For a change offer omelettes made as thin as crêpes then filled, rolled and served cold. Fillings might be fresh asparagus, or smoked haddock bound in a creamy sauce. Smoked trout, skinned and boned and reassembled with a little fish pâté to hold its shape tastes better with salads than smoked salmon.



Smoked poultry is another option to consider and, in the absence of game, there is cold roast duck, or more ambitiously, an easily sliced galantine of boned stuffed duck. Duck breast cooked like a steak then cooled and sliced thinly, is also good. Fillet of beef, briefly roasted in one piece in a very hot oven is an excellent picnic choice too. The small slices, cut rather thickly for beef, are quite manageable with a fork.

Another way of approaching picnic food is to minimize large buffet party recipes into portable portions. Instead of one grand omelette of fish, bake several little ones which can be dealt like cards without further slicing ado.

And to finish, how about ripe cherries to dunk in the last few mouthfuls of wine. The whole point about picnics is that they are not like formal meals.

A less rich pastry, homemade or frozen, is easier to handle but not as tender as the recipe here.

- Poach fish piles Makes six
- For the pastry 225g (8oz) plain flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 225g (8oz) chilled butter
- 6 to 8 tablespoons iced water
- For the filling 450g (1lb) salmon, or a mixture of salmon, and white fish
- 600ml (1 pint) fish stock or water
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 55g (2oz) butter
- 450g (1lb) leeks, finely sliced
- 12 sprigs fresh dill
- To finish 1 egg, beaten

To make the rich shortcrust pastry sift the flour and salt into a large bowl. Cut the chilled butter into dice and toss them in the flour. Rub in the fat lightly until the mixture looks like breadcrumbs. Add enough iced water to make a firm dough; press it lightly into a ball and refrigerate it, wrapped to stop it drying out, until needed.

Poach the fish in the seasoned fish stock or water until it is just cooked. Cool it in the stock as quickly as possible then drain and remove all the bones and skin, keeping the flesh in large flakes.

Melt the butter in a large pan and add the leeks. Cook on a low heat until the leeks are tender, but not browned. Season and allow them to cool.

These pies can be baked in any shape you fancy from a simple turnover fashioned from a circle of pastry to fish-shaped parcels for show-offs. The principles remain the same.

To make turnovers, roll out the pastry to a thickness of about 3mm (1/8 inch) thick, and cut out six circles about 18cm (7 inches) diameter. Place the filling on half of each circle of dough only, leaving a 1cm (1/2 inch) margin for the seam. Divide half the leeks between the six pies, then all the fish, two sprigs of dill each and the remaining egg glaze.

Paint the margin of each pastry circle with beaten egg, and fold the spare portion over the filling. Seal the edges firmly and crimp them. Pierce a small hole in the centre top of each pie and paint them all over with the remaining egg glaze.

Bake them on a baking sheet in a preheated moderate oven (160°C/350°F, gas mark 4) for about 40 minutes, or until the pastry is golden.

These pies are best freshly baked. All the preparation prior to baking can be done the day before and the pies baked on the day they are to be eaten.

Gillick: the anxiety and opposition grow

Mrs Victoria Gillick's husband, Gordon, has declared it a "good omen" that next Monday the day the House of Lords will decide whether contraceptives may be prescribed to under-16s without parental consent, is also the couple's wedding anniversary and his birthday.

Such fanciful optimism is an unusual ingredient in the fierce and angry controversy which surrounds the ruling of the Appeal Court last December. This made illegal the DHSS guideline which permitted doctors to prescribe contraceptives confidentially to minors, if they judged it best. On June 24 the date set for what will be the culmination of Mrs Gillick's long and zealous battle, the Lords will decide whether to ratify what has come to be known as the Gillick ruling.

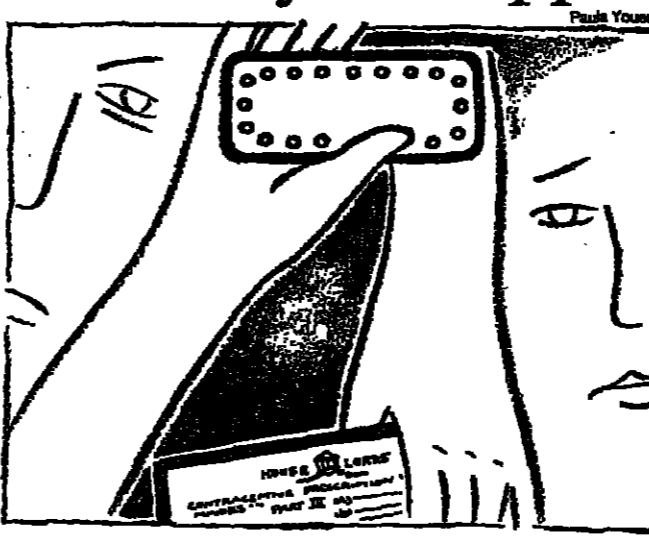
The debate is ostensibly over the practical matter of whether allowing under-16s confidentiality, when they seek contraception, is an unreasonable erosion of parental control. But the underlying issue is a far more fundamental battle between two polarized factions on the way society's morals can and should be controlled.

That certainly is how Dr Adrian Rogers, a GP and vociferous supporter of Mrs Gillick, sees it. "There are two sides with very different views on how society should behave here," he says. "It's a them and us situation and there's a lot of hate about it."

What Dr John Ashton, a senior lecturer in community medicine at Liverpool University who has specialized in work on teenage sexuality, explains: "This should not be a game of winning points in an ideological argument, but a question of trying to look realistically and honestly at what is best for our young and how best we can help them to lead constructive lives."

"Clearly Mrs Gillick and her supporters are caring people who want to do the best for young people, but research evidence shows them to be misguided. Stopping under-16s from getting confidential contraceptives will not make them tell their parents or stop having sex if they don't want to, but it does take away from them the chance to be responsible and avoid unwanted pregnancy."

"Since the confidential service has been available, we have seen teenage pregnancy rates slip by 15 per cent during the 1970s. By providing the kind of help teenagers seek, we also get the opportunity to counsel them and discuss with them the implications of a sexual relationship, if they cannot talk at home. Surely this is better than unprotected sex, teenage abortions and shotgun marriages with their extremely high breakdown rate."



The decline in conceptions in 1974/75 coincided with advice to doctors that they may provide contraception to girls under 16 without parental consent; and with free NHS contraception.

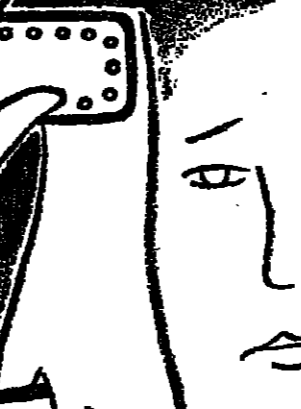
Region	1st Quarter of		Change %
	84	85	
All Centres	450	245	-46
Avon	27	23	-15
Birmingham	156	90	-42
Coventry	2	1	-50
Edinburgh	43	26	-40
London	203	93	-51
Merseyside	19	6	-68

This view is given weight by a substantial piece of research published recently by the American Guttmacher Institute. It is based on a survey of teenage fertility in 37 developed countries and focusing particularly on six: the United States, Canada, Britain, the Netherlands, France and Sweden. The researchers took a sample of 15 to 19-year-old girls and they found that the US, with 96 pregnancies per 1,000 girls, has the highest teenage pregnancy rate in the developed world. The Netherlands, on the other hand, with 14 pregnancies per 1,000 girls, has the lowest. In the middle is England and Wales, with 45 pregnancies per 1,000 girls.

What makes these findings particularly relevant to us, at this moment, is that America was found to have poor sex education and a lack of confidentiality for teenagers wanting contraceptives; getting contraceptives in the US can be difficult and expensive and there is a generally repressive attitude to sex, whereas in the Netherlands there is a great deal of openness about sex.

The parallels with the American situation, in the cutback on information and services which Mrs Gillick and her supporters would like, are clear says Dr Ashton. "In many respects our

population culture here and our own attitudes to teenage sexuality reflect those of the US. There is a lot of sexual stimulus, the young grow up surrounded by titillating images, yet underneath it is the confusing message that nice girls still say no.



"The most important factor, preventing our teenage pregnancy rates from reaching the same levels as those in the US during the past 10 years, has been the availability of some sex education and at least reasonable access by young people to contraception."

Yet since December this availability has not existed for under-16s. At the 19 Brook Advisory Clinics around the country, where they estimate 3 per cent of their clients are under 16, attendance has dropped by half in one year. Alison Frazer at the headquarters says: "Many of the girls not keeping appointments have been to us before and are on contraceptives. They do not dare return in case we tell their parents, but I don't for one minute believe they have stopped having sex, so what will the consequences be?"

But it is reports like this which, in the view of those who support Mrs Gillick, makes the parental control issue so pressing. Dr Rogers, who describes

himself as a member of the Moral Majority and talks flamboyantly about his opponents as members of the "Loony Left", says: "These agencies just hand out the pill and don't seem to consider that we should be telling teenagers not to have sex. That is no solution."

"I believe society is hopelessly lost and that we are seeing a moral breakdown. We need to reverse the situation and I believe this can and must be done. Legislation can force social mores to change. We must teach children self-restraint."

Angela Neustatter

THE TIMES DIARY

Solidarity gesture

In an admission that will enrage Britain's Polish community, Robert Maxwell has publicly disavowed Solidarity on Polish radio and has pledged a policy to give the union less coverage in his Mirror Group newspapers...

A-spiring

Secret plans are being drawn up to rob Oxford of one of its last all-boys colleges, St Hilda's, and absorb it into nearby Magdalen. The well-endowed Magdalen, a mixed college cramped by buildings on all sides...

Tee party

Denis Thatcher will be pleased to hear it: Sir Basil Feldman, vice-chairman of the Tory Party, spent 15 minutes at last week's executive committee meeting discussing not politics, Pym or politics... but a celebrity golf tournament for the party in October...

Road-runner

Will we ever know the truth about the day Billy Connolly and Rod Stewart hitch-hiked on the M4? According to Connolly - and as my first story reported - the person who gave the pair a lift was on his way to a funeral. The driver, merchant banker Mark Murphy, rang me, said he was in fact going to Heathrow to pick up his girlfriend, and I ran a second story. Yesterday Caroline Fraser rang: "I'm Mark Murphy's girlfriend and he certainly wasn't going to pick me up. Did he name this woman?"

Truth will out

"Who is telling the truth?" - to quote Polygraph Security Services, which handles the lie-detector the Government was so keen on using. Polygraph director Jeremy Barrett, announcing the appointment of Britain's first female lie-detector operator, says "statistics show that women make the most successful Polygraph examiners". Yet in the same sentence Barrett claims success for his previously all male examiners "in every single case". Perhaps Polygraph's chairman could explain. Barrett's letter, sent last week, identifies the chairman as Sir George Terry, former chief constable of Sussex. Sir George, of course, quit the company more than a year ago.

Frying tonight

The squabble between the Potato Marketing Board and disgruntled growers, who consider it to be spendthrift and incompetent, is taking some bizarre turns. First the board was alleged to have hired a satellite camera to spy on growers who planted more than their allotted acreage, a charge which it has denied. Now some farmers in Britain have come up with an ingenious plan to escape detection: they are growing their spuds inside RAF bases, which for security reasons any spotter aircraft are forbidden to overfly.

Hot lines

As the Commons has its new telephone exchange installed, MPs have just heard that they are all to get new phones. The pricey Plessey models incorporate a 16-number memory, a calculator and even a clock. What's more, members' secretaries will be getting them, too. Our representatives will soon have to come up with reasons indeed for not getting back to us.

Black mark on the white collar

Trevor Fishlock on a growing reaction against corporate crime in the US

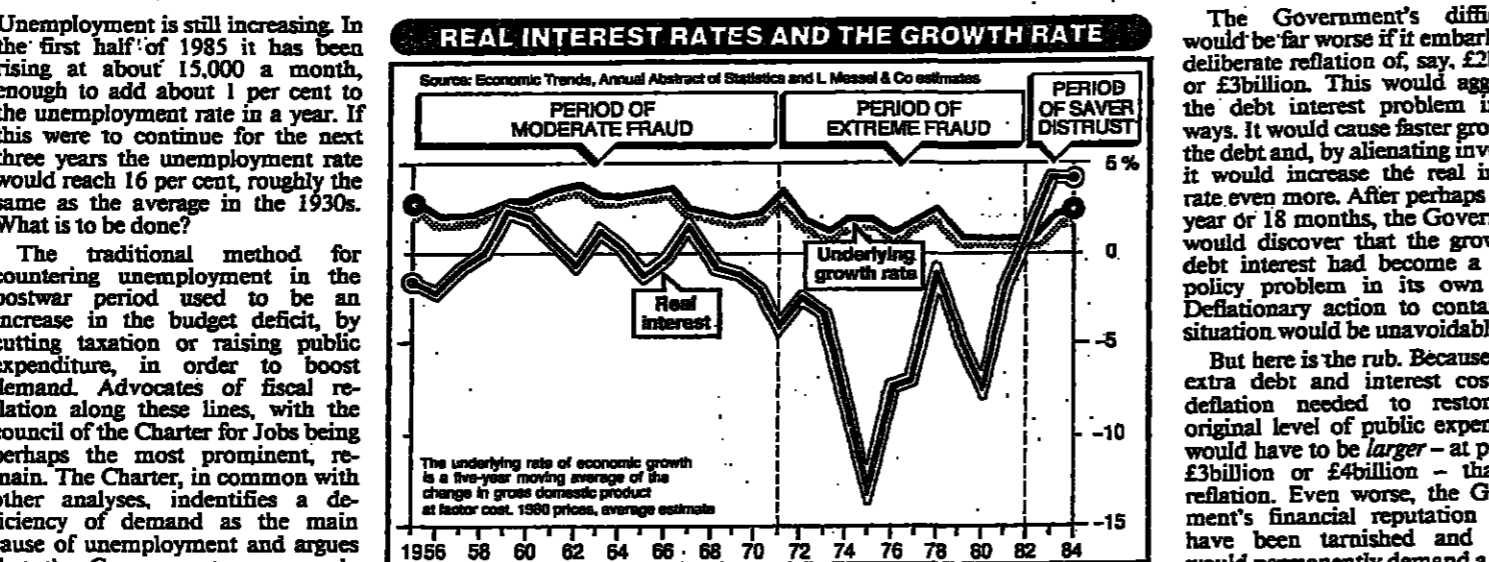
New York The American white collar looks in need of a good wash. Amid a rush of revelations and confessions of large-scale fraud by corporations and bosses, American business is sweating under the spotlight - accused, and accusing itself, of falling moral standards and shameful greed. Headlines tell of "the age of me-first management", of "White-collar crime booming", of "New permissiveness eroding corporate morality" and "The new frenzy to get rich". Business talk of a decline in moral values, of increasing pressures on managers to be aggressive, to get results by hook or by crook. There is talk of "a failure of corporate stewardship". The Reagan administration, with its promises to get government off the back of business, is blamed by some for encouraging corner-cutting. Some bosses say that people should not be misled by a rash of corporate swindling into thinking that business morals are rotting. On the contrary, they contend, standards are higher, and the present controversy is to some extent created by the press. Even so, a recent poll conducted for the New York Times and CBS News showed that Americans have a low opinion of business honesty. Indeed, 55 per cent of people questioned said they thought people in business dishonest. This echoed a Harris poll last year which showed that only 18 per cent of Americans placed great confidence in executives. Certainly this has been a bad year for the corporate image. The venerable Bank of Boston, a pillar of the commercial establishment, was fined \$500,000 (£390,000) for breaking currency laws, having failed to report \$1.2 billion (£930 million) of cash dealings with foreign banks. It was further stained by reports of its dealings with Boston's leading crime family. The huge fraud perpetrated by E. F. Hutton, one of the country's largest and hitherto well-respected brokers, was another shock. It was fined \$2 million (£1,560,000) for systematically cheating 400 banks by overdrawing on accounts and staying ahead of bounced cheques by overdrawing on others. The firm overwrote \$10 billion, giving itself "free" money of \$150 million (£117 million) a day. Hutton had urged its managers to be aggressive and creative. Its chairman, Robert Fomon, is one of America's highest paid executives, with a salary of \$1.5 million (£1,170,000). Such mega-salaries are themselves controversial: critics say the executives are not worth the money. Hutton's hierarchy said it did not know what was going on. Another million-dollar executive is John Welch, chairman of General Electric, one of the many defence contractors under a cloud for swindling the government. This company pleaded guilty last month to defrauding the air force of \$800,000 (£625,000) by forging workers' timesheets. Last year Mr Welch was nominated by Fortune magazine as America's toughest boss, and said he tried to make heroes out of risk-takers in the company. More than 400 defence contractors were temporarily suspended or disqualified from working for the Pentagon in 1984. Three years ago a magazine survey of America's 500 largest corporations found that during the previous 10 years 113 had been convicted of a major crime or had paid fines for serious misbehaviour. Last year the top five executives of the Charter company, an oil and insurance firm, voted themselves bonuses of \$250,000 (£195,000) each. Four months later, not long after a famous Wall Street accounting firm had declared it financially strong, the company filed for bankruptcy. Occasionally a business criminal goes to jail. Paul Flayer, a former deputy secretary of defence, is serving four years for perjury at an insider-trading inquiry. Jake Butcher, a financier, has just been jailed for 20 years for frauds that broke 14 banks. Such sentences are cited as evidence that the government is getting tough on business crime. But Americans are appalled that many white-collar criminals "escape unscathed". There is concern, for example, that in the E. F. Hutton fraud case the Justice Department did a deal with the company: in return for guilty pleas on 2,000 counts, nobody was charged. This has led to complaints of a double standard. People note the jail sentences imposed on petty thieves while corporate robbers go free. Some people retort that disgrace is punishment enough, but most Americans do not agree. Ralph Nader, the consumer watchdog, wrote recently that reluctance to prosecute is "symptomatic of overall regulatory softness towards the crimes of the powerful and affluent". He said the constant renege theme of getting government off the back of business had been a signal "that the federal cop was being taken off the corporate beat", and corporate crime "moved into high gear". There is concern, too, about firms that dump toxic waste and get away with it, or conspire in illegal price-fixing or make dangerous products. Some people in business are now saying that the public's perceptions about business crime is bad for business and that it is time for corporate America to wash its grubby collar.

Peter Kellner Who will dare to tell the truth?

"Truth or dare?" Few games are more enduring. That moment of choice, the frisson of a leap into the unknown - what secret will have to be disclosed, or unwelcome act performed? The game only works, of course, if the participants fundamentally like each other and share a common instinct for honesty. Which is one reason why children play it so much better than politicians. Most politicians try to avoid the game altogether by pretending that no choice need be made. Mrs Thatcher is different. She has all the instincts of an accomplished "truth or dare" player. Almost invariably, she dares. For example, she dared when the Argentines invaded the Falklands. The truth was, and is, that Britain must eventually negotiate away sovereignty over the islands. The dare was that a swift recapture of the Falklands would repair the political damage done by the initial invasion. Her reply to "truth or dare?" was simple: "Who dares wins?" In the short term she was right. The Conservatives won the general election 12 months later by a landslide. But now her government's dares are coming unstuck and its lack of truthfulness is beginning to show. Instead of appearing bold, it is looking furtive. When Mrs Thatcher finally acceded last week to Neil Kinnock's demands for the figures omitted from the social security review, she came across like a cornered child whose dare had come unstuck; sheepishly she agreed to surrender the truth. But if the manner in which the deceit was unmasked was novel, the nature of that deceit in the first place was not. It is only latest in a line of government attempts to use the power of the state to dare to hide the truth. The sinking of the Belgrano provides the clearest example. Thanks to Granada Television's World in Action, we now know that the Commons select committee on foreign affairs has concluded that "as a result of the approach adopted by ministers, the House remained for too long in ignorance of information which members were perfectly entitled to request." That is the point Tam Dalyell has repeatedly sought to make, and which Clive Ponting helped him to prove. If the Government had had its way, Mr Dalyell would have continued to be misled, Mr Ponting would have been thwarted - or imprisoned - and the select committee would have been denied the very information that finally compelled it to reach that conclusion. Then there was Sarah Tisdall. She was sent to prison: punished for revealing what should never have been a secret in the first place - the date when cruise missiles were to start arriving in Britain. Cathy Massier was luckier: in the end she was not prosecuted for describing how M15 has spied on CND. The Government satisfied itself with a blatant whitewash in the inquiry it commissioned from Lord Bridges into the application of the rules governing phone-tapping. Now we have the case of Geoffrey Dennis, currently suspended with-

Tim Congdon argues that savers' confidence is the key to growth

Jobs: avoiding the spending trap



The Government's difficulties would be far worse if it embarked on deliberate deflation of, say, £2 billion or £3 billion. This would aggravate the debt interest problem in two ways. It would cause faster growth in the debt and, by alienating investors, it would increase the real interest rate even more. After perhaps only a year or 18 months, the Government would discover that the growth in debt interest had become a major policy problem in its own right. Deflationary action to contain the situation would be unavoidable. But here is the rub. Because of the extra debt and interest costs, the deflation needed to restore the original level of public expenditure would have to be larger - at perhaps £3 billion or £4 billion - than the deflation. Even worse, the Government's financial reputation would have been tarnished and savers would permanently demand a higher real interest rate than at present. These strictures apply to any government, regardless of its political complexion. It is fantasy to imagine that Labour or social democratic politicians somehow debt interest had become a major policy problem in its own right. Deflationary action to contain the situation would be unavoidable. But here is the rub. Because of the extra debt and interest costs, the deflation needed to restore the original level of public expenditure would have to be larger - at perhaps £3 billion or £4 billion - than the deflation. Even worse, the Government's financial reputation would have been tarnished and savers would permanently demand a higher real interest rate than at present. These strictures apply to any government, regardless of its political complexion. It is fantasy to imagine that Labour or social democratic politicians somehow

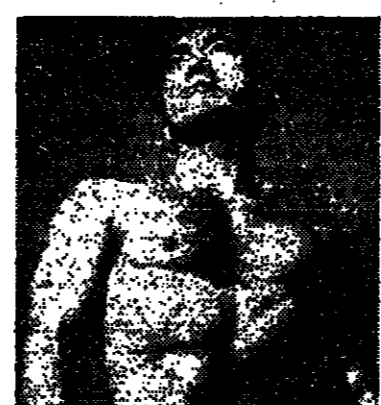
moreover... Miles Kington

Eat, drink and be sorry

As you may know, Britain now has the best chefs in the world and although it's a pity that none of them cooks British food, it does mean that when you're out eating about in Britain this summer, you're in for a wonderful series of meals. Here are the restaurants we recommend. Keltos Priory When Jeremy Sinclair found the priory, it was just a pile of old stones deep in the heart of the Lake District. Now, 10 years later, it's a lovingly restored building in the middle of Somerset, serving some of the best quails, snails and rills for miles around. "Most mornings I go down to the market at the crack of dawn and choose the whatever I think is best and freshest. Other mornings I just think, what the hell, and roll over to sleep again." When guests arrive, Jeremy likes to discuss the menu with them, tell them what to have, order the wines for them, sit with them throughout the meal and put his hand on their knee by coffee-time. The actual cooking is done by a local lad he has trained up. The restaurant is hard to find, so take a map - Jeremy himself has wandered the countryside for days looking for the place. The Old TV Studio, Taunton. When the BBC closed down its tiny regional outpost in Somerset, Wallace and Kim Badger jumped in like a shot to convert it into a restaurant. Wallace has always been passionately interested in calligraphy and does all the hand-letting on the menus himself. Kim's obsession has been more to do with music, and she selects every bit of Vivaldi and Albinoni on the restaurant's discreet piped music system herself. "I like to go up to London two or three times a week and see what's new and fresh in the record shops. I can honestly say that we've got some baroque music here that you wouldn't find in an eating-place this side of Shepherds Bush." The actual cooking is done by a Moroccan married couple whom they have trained up. Best to book 10 days in advance, choose your menu five days before and turn up an hour early, as the Badgers can't stand people parking when they should be eating. No dogs, children, smokers, caravan-owners, jazz-lovers or Telegraph-readers. The TV studio is believed to be haunted by the voice of Robin Day. Coed Newydd, Gwynedd. It used to

Japan keeps the mask on Mishima

Tokyo Yukio Mishima embodied many of the Japanese qualities that enthrall and appal foreigners. This brilliant novelist, read widely in English and perhaps the best-known Japanese, was a man of extreme politics and great complexity who attracted attention wherever he did - even before he disembowelled himself with a short sword in 1970. Fifteen years after that ritual suicide, Mishima, a controversial American-made film of his life, dominated the first Tokyo film festival this month although it was not shown. It even overshadowed Akira Kurosawa's exquisitely photographed lifework, an adaptation of King Lear entitled Ran (Chaos). When Mishima, directed by Paul Schrader, was shown at Cannes, it was the talk of the festival. It did not win the top prize that many had expected for it, however. On home ground in Tokyo it could reasonably have been expected to win: the film was about a Japanese and acted by Japanese. A storm of resentment was aroused, however, by the fact that it was directed by an American who does not speak the language. The film might have been a second jewel in the crown of Tokyo's first festival along with Kurosawa's period piece; instead its rejection by the festival committee, which included Japanese directors, brought accusations of censorship. It also marred Japan's hopes of making a deft escape from the pornography and mediocrity in which the Japanese film world has wallowed for years, with a few exceptions. Some of film's brightest talents wrote to complain at the rejection of the work, including the directors Louis Malle and George Lucas and the writers Norman Mailer and Susan Sontag. Schrader himself said: "From the very first film festival, the Japanese organizers are embarking on a form of political censorship that cannot be condoned and must be uniformly condemned by the international film festival community. There may have been several reasons for rejecting the film, not least concern for the feelings of the family and the international reputation of so important a national asset. There were said to be worries that it would displease Mishima's right-wing constituency who might make things uncomfortable for theatre patrons. No evidence has been produced, however, and the committee has not pronounced publicly on its reasons. Any director would have found it immensely difficult to give a sensitive treatment of things which in Japanese society are not usually matters for public discussion and definitely not for interpretation by foreigners. Mishima stood out as defender of "traditional values" in postwar Japan. For that he was both admired and thought a buffoon in spite of his literary talents. He was a body-builder who



Mishima: potent symbol

She decreed that the film should show neither homosexuality, suicide, nor any portrayal of the widow or children. She refused to talk to The Times but it is understood that she withdrew her support for the film after she saw the script because she felt it dwelt too little on her late husband's art. There is talk of legal action on behalf of Mrs Mishima and other members of the family because of a scene in the film, suggesting homosexual inclinations, which was taken from Confessions of a Mask, the sole rights to which are owned by Mishima's mother, Mrs Shizue Hirakata. Since the work is largely autobiographical the incident could not have been witnessed by anyone other than Mishima himself, the family contends. Letters are also being exchanged between the film makers and a New York lawyer acting on behalf of the author of the standard biography, The Life and Death of Yukio Mishima, a former correspondent of The Times in Tokyo, Henry Scott-Stokes. He says the film plagiarizes some of his book's dialogue, but reflects that the increased interest created by the controversy might push worldwide sales of his book to the one million mark. The film, meanwhile, is due to be shown in New York in the autumn, but it is doubtful if it will be shown in Japan. "Mishima," said Scott-Stokes, "would have loved all this."

David Watts



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QUI S'EXCUSE S'ACCUSE

Greece, in the person of her foreign minister, Mr Yiannis Haralambopoulos, has blamed the United States for a "defamatory campaign" against her over her role in the TWA hijack drama.

There have indeed been many criticisms of Greece for the laxity of her authorities towards terrorism in general and airport security in particular and — though rather more muted, for no one evades the responsibility of the decision-maker in such a case — for releasing the hijack accomplice, Mr Ali Atwa. None of them, however, emanates from US official sources. Washington has carefully abstained from any comment on the Greek performance.

Mr Haralambopoulos's statement is unfortunately all too typical of his government's reaction to criticism. Two months before the hijacking, nearly 40 airlines sent a telegram to the Greek Prime Minister expressing "deepest concern at the total inadequacy of airport security at Athens". Mr Papandreu, who no doubt had other things on his mind at that time, rejected the charge. And when the airlines proceeded to set up their own secondary screening of passengers at Athens the Greek Government ordered them to stop, on the grounds that their action reflected unfavourably on the competence of the Greek police.

In point of fact the order had not yet been implemented. So screening by TWA was no more effective than screening by the airport authorities in preventing the hijackers from getting their weapons on to the aircraft. It is not yet clear whether this is because the equipment was

inadequate, the personnel careless or — most probably — because the general lack of security precautions at the airport made it easy for the hijackers to avoid both sets of security checks.

On March 6 this year our Athens correspondent reported the case of the foreign ambassador who walked through the terminal building, past two police checkpoints and a customs guard, into the transit area and out on to the tarmac within 100 yards of where Mr Papandreu himself was disembarking from an aircraft, without once being stopped, identified or asked a single question. As his report would appear to have been read more attentively by the would-be hijackers than by the Greek authorities.

No one in the air transport industry takes seriously Mr Haralambopoulos's claim that the security measures at Greek airports are equal to those enforced in other European cities. It is true that hijacks have occurred in the past in France, West Germany and other countries but measures have been taken since which render such operations very much more difficult. As the graph published on page seven shows, the number of successful hijacks each year declined very sharply after the early 1970s, when worldwide screening of cabin baggage and passengers and other security measures were introduced.

Hijackings in pursuit of political concessions other than simple asylum for the hijacker (the latter originating recently above all in Iran) dropped from a peak of 82 in 1969 to a mere six in 1982 — partly perhaps because would-be hijackers were discouraged by the successful rescue

operations at Entebbe and Mogadishu but above all because of tighter security precautions at airports; and a recent IATA inspection clearly identified Athens as one of the most dangerous loopholes in this tighter net.

Greek unwillingness to take this problem seriously was not confined to airports. Foreign diplomats in Athens were seriously concerned for their own safety in view of the number of terrorist incidents that occurred there and the lack of success of the Greek police in identifying or prosecuting the culprits. The suspicion grew among Western intelligence services that there was some kind of tacit deal between the Greek Government and various Arab radical groups, allowing them to use Athens as a staging post or base provided they did not attack Greek targets.

To accuse the Greeks of actively aiding or abetting terrorism would certainly be wrong. But it does seem to be true that Greece, like France and some other countries in the past, has preferred to take a passive line towards terrorism, hoping that this and its relatively pro-Arab stand on political issues would prevent it from becoming a target. But Greece is now finding, as France found before her, that immunity cannot be bought in this way. We must hope that behind Mr Haralambopoulos's bluster some urgent rethinking of Greek policy is going on, and that the Government will not wait for the International Federation of Air-line Pilots' Associations to decree a boycott of Athens airport before it takes serious measures to improve security there.

The UN cannot act today unless the sovereign government, Lebanon, and by implication, its big brother, Syria, ask it to. Both have understandable reasons for wishing to see the Palestinians worsted militarily, though their failure to secure reasonable standards of conduct in the last, earlier by direct influence or through seeking United Nations troop presence, reflects very creditably on both of them.

Finally, however, the lesson of the atrocities of both 1982 and 1985 is the same. In the poignant words of Chaim Weizmann pleading the case of Jews in 1930s Europe, the Palestinians "cannot stay where they are, yet have nowhere to go." Thus all those able to help Palestinians achieve a place of safety but who avoid doing so are moral accomplices to the physical and psychological nightmare which is the lot of so many of the Palestinian people. That safe place can only be in Palestine.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID McDOWALL,
c/o Lloyds Bank,
6 Pall Mall, SW1.

Putting a stop to evil in the air

From Mr Derek Peters
Sir, If a football club like Liverpool can be banned indefinitely, why not the use of an airport like Athens? Yours truly,
DEREK PETERS,
55 Belsize Park, NW3,
June 15.

From Mr Denis E. Meehan
Sir, Your leader today (July 17), "Evil in the air", is so full of good sense that any criticism must seem childish. May I nevertheless be a churl in pointing out that you refer not at all to the appropriate punishment for the individuals responsible for these acts of barbarism?

Yes, we all have violence and evil within us, but we must not choose to do evil must be allowed to cast stones with a confidence approaching certainty when terrorists, with however real or imaginary grievances, hijack, bomb and shoot innocent bystanders in pursuit of their aims.

By all means let us take sanctions against Athens, Algiers, Beirut and Damascus, but should there not also be an international convention that persons convicted of terrorist murder, wherever apprehended, should be sentenced to death?

In your troubled search for an answer to violence you are in danger of forgetting that there is such a thing as righteous anger.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS E. MEEHAN,
194 Merton Road,
Wandsworth, SW19,
June 17.

Massacres in Lebanon

From Mr David McDowall
Sir, As an eyewitness to the 1982 massacre of Palestinians and Lebanese in Sabra-Shatila, I share Mr Greenwald's (June 3) sense of outrage that another round of atrocities is taking place against civilians and prisoners in these camps.

In 1982 the UN did not act to protect the camps. The US did, not least because it was determined to exclude the UN from the scene. US plans fitted nicely with both Israeli and Lebanese plans at that time.

The UN cannot act today unless the sovereign government, Lebanon, and by implication, its big brother, Syria, ask it to. Both have understandable reasons for wishing to see the Palestinians worsted militarily, though their failure to secure reasonable standards of conduct in the last, earlier by direct influence or through seeking United Nations troop presence, reflects very creditably on both of them.

Finally, however, the lesson of the atrocities of both 1982 and 1985 is the same. In the poignant words of Chaim Weizmann pleading the case of Jews in 1930s Europe, the Palestinians "cannot stay where they are, yet have nowhere to go." Thus all those able to help Palestinians achieve a place of safety but who avoid doing so are moral accomplices to the physical and psychological nightmare which is the lot of so many of the Palestinian people. That safe place can only be in Palestine.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID McDOWALL,
c/o Lloyds Bank,
6 Pall Mall, SW1.

Sweeping aside barriers in EEC

From Mr Colin Hart
Sir, Lord Cockfield is to be congratulated on initiating (European notebook, June 17) moves to sweep away economic barriers within the EEC. The Europe he envisages is the very Europe for which a massive campaign and voted in the 1975 referendum.

It is too much to hope that he and his fellow Commissioners might now go one step further and sweep away the EEC's "own" budget?

It is a budget that serves no useful purpose. As a macro-economic instrument in the Keynesian tradition in which it was born, it is mercifully too puny to have much effect. In most instances it merely substitutes for national expenditure which would probably have occurred in any case.

Where funds are genuinely spent from the centre, there is no evidence to suggest that their disbursement is achieved in a markedly efficient or

effective fashion. And if it really is so necessary to subsidise farmers, let it be done nationally within agreed rules.

At best the EEC budget is a pretentious vanity, a product of the belief that we shall all coexist as equals as loyal citizens of a Europe to which we are obliged to pay taxes.

At worst, the EEC budget is a continuing source of waste, bitterness and distrust — a fatal distraction from what a united Europe could and should be about.

Europe's founding fathers succeeded because they refused to accept Europe as they found it. Their successors today must adopt a similarly radical approach if the inheritance is not to be squandered.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN HART,
64 St John's Road,
Sevenoaks,
Kent,
June 17.

Peace studies

From Professor James O'Connell
Sir, Roger Scruton (June 11) accuses my university of offering a degree in a subject, peace studies, "that doesn't even exist". He neglects to define this paradoxical meaning of existence. But for the record there are university departments and research centres in the United States, West Germany, Canada, Holland, Finland, Sweden and many other countries that deal with the subject of peace studies, that are supported by public funds, and that are thriving.

Moreover, while peace studies has encountered the problems customarily for a new subject, it has gradually consolidated itself as an area study, that is, a study in which several disciplines are used in complementary and interdependent ways to work on a set of problems. War studies, incidentally which is also flourishing, is the same kind of subject.

Roger Scruton and others have several times attacked peace studies. I do not object to those who suggest that peace studies needs to refine its competence and that it should be careful to monitor and guard its integrity and fairness. But it seems crass to argue that scholars should not use in an inter-linked way the

disciplines of political science, economics, history and psychology to study the central and urgent issues of peace and war.

The subject of international relations emerged after 1918. Peace studies as a subject emerged after 1945 in the wake of the invention of weapons that imply that the major powers can no longer resort to war with one another but must find less destructive means of settling disputes.

Finally, Dr Scruton argues that higher education "must be pointless and irrelevant". This view ignores the rich interlacing of personal development, provision of managerial skills and leavening of social attitudes that universities can contribute to. It also makes even the narrow functionalism of the Government's Green Paper look sensible.

If my colleagues and I work on peace studies we do so because it has a purpose and is relevant. I know that scholars in, for example, medicine and engineering share the same academic outlook.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES O'CONNELL,
University of Bradford,
School of Peace Studies,
Bradford,
West Yorkshire,
June 14.

Limits of welfare

From Mr R. T. Krawiec
Sir, As you say in today's editorial (June 4), "Beveridge... emphatically espoused the principle that State provision should... be based firmly on the individual's contribution to it rather than on any theory of the automatic handout".

Also, as Hayek may have implied, this concept of handouts, and thereby the idea that it is one's "right" to have the State provide all, or most of what one needs, can easily become an influence on one's attitude to work, responsibility, and fellow man (sorry, person) to such an extent that the only trade one needs to learn is how to squeeze as much out of the system as possible.

Certainly, for those who would see this as a valid redistribution of wealth and that, in true Christian traditions, it is the duty of the better-off to care and help provide for the less well-off. However, I would maintain that God only helps those that help themselves (cf Christ's miracles of healing and Parable of the Talents) and so it should be in the case of the

British welfare state with one or two rare exceptions.

In response to expenditure restrictions, local authorities have decided that they will reduce the services which they provide. Yet there are so many jobs which could be done by unemployed people without their receiving any more cash other than their benefits (litter collection and street cleaning immediately spring to mind) for their contribution to the society that maintains them. Why should welfare be such a one-way street?

Doubtless the trade unions would put many obstacles in the way of such a scheme, as they have done with regard to the youth schemes, but a determined government should be able to overcome this problem, I'm sure.

To summarise: let us have value for money from our welfare as well as any other matter of public expenditure.

Yours faithfully,
R. T. KRAWIEC,
185 Hurst Road,
Sidcup,
Kent,
June 4.

Objecting to jurors

From his Honour Judge Anthony Tibber
Sir, Why is the exercise of the right to three peremptory challenges to a jury described by some of your correspondents as an abuse?

Since the abolition of the publication of the name, address and occupation of a juror, the right may be of little value, but I fail to see any abuse.

If counsel, solicitor or client believes that his case will be prejudiced by the participation of a particular juror, he may be right or wrong, but the exercise of the right cannot be an abuse.

The power of the State is massed against a defendant any proposal to reduce his rights must be carefully scrutinised.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY TIBBER,
48 Bancroft Avenue, NZ.

Pearls beyond price

From Mr Stephen P. Morse
Sir, The suggestion in your first leader (June 7) that nurses' claim on the public purse is due to our fear of them is only the grossest of the many slurs which have been offered recently by the members of the National Health Service.

On the contrary, their claim arises from our respect for their dedication, our awe at their patience, our delight in their cheerfulness, and our recognition of their skill.

They are always underpaid — because their profession demands qualities which cannot be entered on a profit and loss account.

Yours faithfully,
S. P. MORSE,
255 Hills Road,
Cambridge,
June 7.

Reviving patients

From the Chairman of the Resuscitation Council (UK) and others
Sir, Your articles (January 15, May 24) describing the paucity of training in emergency resuscitation amongst junior hospital doctors demonstrated in recent research surveys highlight a problem causing anxiety to a number of British medical specialists.

The Resuscitation Council of the UK was formed three years ago to apply itself to such issues and during its brief existence it has published two booklets, *Resuscitation Guide and Resuscitation for the Citizen*. It has recently completed the production of a wall poster, "Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation", describing an approach to cardio-respiratory arrest both in and out of hospital.

A working group has met formally to produce guidelines for hospitals on the practice of advanced resuscitation and a multi-centre study into the practice and results of cardio-pulmonary resuscitation in hospital is currently in progress.

The difficulty lies in persuading individual doctors, hospital committees and deans of medical schools that practical training in emergency aid and resuscitation should be an essential part of a

doctor's general professional make-up. Fewer than a dozen hospitals or medical schools have specialised medical training facilities for resuscitation training and practice.

By contrast, many institutions in the United States demand a certificate of proficiency in basic or advanced life-support as a prerequisite on licensing. The findings of the Cambridge and St Bartholomew's studies are, of course, not exclusive to the United Kingdom — earlier studies have shown the same deficiencies in practical ability in North America and parts of Europe.

Surely, however, the time is right in this country for us to grasp the nettle and ensure that our young medical graduates are trained and equipped to deal with sudden emergencies in practice and hopefully this will lessen the number of "confused and disorganised charades" on attempts at resuscitation.

We are, yours faithfully,
ANDREW MARDEN M. WARD,
Chairman, Resuscitation Council (UK),
DONALD CHAMBERLAIN,
ANTHONY D. REDMOND,
R. I. HERRERT,
S. STROGERS,
S. HUGHES,
S. TUNSTALL,
D. PEDOE,
D. EVANS,
Resuscitation Council (UK),
Department of Anaesthetics,
Royal Postgraduate Medical School,
HammerSmith Hospital,
Du Cane Road, W12,
May 31.

ON THIS DAY

JUNE 19 1913

Mount Athos occupies the easternmost of the three promontories of Chalcidica Peninsula projecting into the Aegean Sea. The monastic life of monks of the Greek Orthodox Church began there in 863. The community of 20 monasteries and dependencies forms part of the Greek constitution of 1827 which is represented by a prefect but the administration is in the hands of the community. The Times Correspondent in Russia was Robert Wilton (1868-1926).

HERESY AT MOUNT ATHOS.

A SOLDIER MONK AND THE HOLY SYNOD

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)
ST PETERSBURG, June 12

The interesting suggestion was lately made by your Correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula that the Balkan Greek Orthodox should seek the repose of Mount Athos, to the gentle slopes, the maddening crowd of soldiers, journalists, and other promoters of strife, should catch some of the dying tones of the still small voice of reason...

It was a notable suggestion, and at any other time might well have contained some seeds of hope. But, alas, Mount Athos... is no longer an abode of peace. A heresy hunt is on foot, and the monks are busy justifying its ancient evil reputation. Within those usually quiet walls there is not merely a strife of words; the fist and the slipper have been at work, and the pious monks have been fighting, literally, tooth and nail...

BROTHER ANTHONY BOULATOVTCH Anthony Boulatovitch was formerly a Russian officer in the Hussars of the Guard, Eusebius Thais, who could not listen patiently to the heresies of Neikas, his spirit was athirst and it would not wait. He took life hard, and after supping without relish at the riotous feasts of St. Petersburg, he sought a more serious life, and when the form of Abyssinian campaign, and afterwards in the Far East; but he returned from these adventures as much a spiritual starved as before. At last the hour of his calling came, and he received the simple tonsure of the monks, a mark of renunciation which Paphnugos gave to Thais. The monastery of St. Andrew at Mount Athos received him, and peace entered his soul. But he had not been a soldier for nothing, and when the form of faith which he and his brethren cherished was suddenly banned as a heresy, it was the ex-guardian who became its principal champion.

Anthony has come to St. Petersburg, to have an operation performed upon his eyes, which he had long been brooding over. The Press has not failed to interview him, and part of the story of the heresy may best be given in his own words...

A few years ago a certain monk named Ilarion, living in the Western Caucasus, wrote a book... In this book the Monk Ilarion showed clearly that the Name of God, being part of God is in itself divine. As we monks of Athos were ourselves for the most part of that opinion, the book was welcomed by us, and was a source of spiritual joy. But one day the journal, the Russian Monk... arrived, and was found to contain an article by the Archbishop of Moscow, in which he begged us to renounce the heresies, and therein he contradicted the doctrine set forth by Ilarion. This wrought confusion and trouble in our souls, and... I, at the request of the brotherhood, wrote him a letter full of love and courtesy, in which I begged him to cease from his heresies, and to write no more such articles. But the Archbishop took no account of our prayer, and for answer wrote in the same newspaper another and more violent article, in which he blasphemed the Name of Jesus. This was read by all the monks with heavy hearts and, talking counsel among ourselves, in the simplicity of our souls, we made application to the Holy Synod that it should force the Archbishop to cease from his writings...

But in this, as the Holy Synod showed us later, we were grievously mistaken. For as the Archbishop Anthony has much to do with the leadership of the Holy Synod, it came to his help, and it began to influence the members of the Holy Synod, and to set them against the brethren. We looked upon their teaching as heresy and, as is our right at Mount Athos in such a case, we immediately deposed our superiors and elected others more worthy.

The deposed abbots and their followers, relying on the support of the Holy Synod, refused to agree with us, and this brought about a bitter feud. The brotherhood of monks, and the latter were expelled with difficulty from St. Andrew's and St. Pantelimon's, and to set them against the brethren. We looked upon their teaching as heresy and, as is our right at Mount Athos in such a case, we immediately deposed our superiors and elected others more worthy.

They are always underpaid — because their profession demands qualities which cannot be entered on a profit and loss account.

Yours faithfully,
S. P. MORSE,
255 Hills Road,
Cambridge,
June 7.

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ANTHONY TIBBER,
48 Bancroft Avenue, NZ.

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ANTHONY TIBBER,
48 Bancroft Avenue, NZ.

Mr Getty's gift to art

From Mr John Digby

Sir, Among the National Gallery's superb Renaissance collection a not infrequent figure is the "Donor", bearing gifts.

Would it not be appropriate for the gallery itself now to commission an artist of our time to execute a benefaction scene after the earlier models, with Mr Getty and the Sainsburys proffering their splendid largesse to a grateful director?

The picture should, in fairness, embody a tablet giving the names of earlier donors and be displayed prominently — the rules as to contemporary work being justifiably bent — at the head of the inside stairs.

Your faithfully,
JOHN DIGBY,
10 Brent Road,
Selsdon,
Surrey,
June 15.

RAJIV'S RETURN

Yesterday Rajiv Gandhi completed his first visit to the West as Prime Minister of India. The highlight of this extended trip, which also took in Paris, Geneva, Cairo and Algiers, was Washington. Before it took place the visit was heralded in certain quarters as the turning point in Indo-American relations. Now that it is over and the turn is not so dramatically visible, there is disappointment if not also confusion. Yet both the original expectation and the consequent despair are unjustified.

The former ignored the continuing pressures of history within which India and the United States operate and the latter misjudged the importance of the breakthrough that has been achieved. At the heart of India's political relationship with the United States lies its attitude to its neighbour Pakistan. Since the mid-1950s America has been viewed from Delhi as an ally of Islamabad. However, over the same time-span Moscow has established itself as India's friend in need. These delineations have sunk deep into the sub-continent's sense of perspective.

For instance in India now, it is thought that destabilisation is caused by American arming of Pakistan, not Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. Similarly, despite its private misgivings over

Russian soldiers in Kabul, Delhi does not share Washington's desire for public criticism of their presence there. The political gulf that separates Rajiv Gandhi from Ronald Reagan was too large to have been realistically bridged by one visit alone. The expectation that this could be so was exaggerated. It was therefore hardly surprising that last week in Washington at the level of politics the two leaders stuck by their historical positions. Mr Gandhi expressed his concern over American armed supplies to Pakistan and its alleged connivance in what India believes is the covert development of a Pakistani nuclear weapon, while Mr Reagan called for a more open and direct condemnation by India of Russia's military occupation of Afghanistan. At least for now this posturing was predictable.

However, by concentrating on the jungle of politics that surrounds their relationship most observers have ignored the unprecedented new economic ties being established between India and America. It is here that Rajiv Gandhi is cutting his way through the undergrowth. He is anxious to expedite India's modernization. He has often said that having missed the industrial revolution his country cannot now afford to let the electronic revolution pass by. In

strangeness, rich associations or beauty are at risk to numbers. Their individual virtues even may seem to be worn down by innumerable instances of being looked at. The superficial symptoms of this condition are car parks, lavatories, litter bins, notices and worn turf.

On top of that the custodians have had to defend their space for the past 10 years or so against an annual invasion of hippies drawn to a free festival of amplified music, drugs and sex. Not all the 30,000 or so have come only for that. Harmless, more elevated and less carnal desires have been woven into the affair. But its impact has been pretty devastating.

The chief executive of the English Heritage and the director general of the National Trust wrote to *The Times* last week of crowds of festival-goers disporting themselves on the stones "in scenes closer to desecration than religion. About 1,000 young trees were torn or cut down; trenches and holes were dug with disregard for the ancient barrows; fences were ripped up, and a scarred landscape of burnt-out vehicles and rubbish was the legacy of the festival". Besides the on-site nuisance, residents round about have been upset and sometimes put in fear.

This year the custodians went to court and got an injunction banning the festival. The police

stood by to enforce it, with consequences which are still the subject of criminal proceedings and civil litigation, and which reached the television screen as numbing scenes of reciprocated mayhem.

It is a sorry end to a clash of uses that is the product more of incomprehension than of mal-evidence. Our society should be capacious enough to afford easier room to the alternative styles of social non-conformists. But that calls for more toleration, especially on the side of those who have abandoned conventional norms. Toleration implies respect. They would find things easier for themselves if their actions were less contemptuous of prevailing attitudes towards hygiene, sexual decorum and respect for property.

On the other side the custodians, however sorely provoked, should keep up the effort of toleration. Responsibilities that were once folded between the plain covers of the Ministry of Works are now with a body colourfully called English Heritage. Next year, if they still think they need a closure, they might go for a more discriminating one, so that when the rising sun on midsummer day clips the stones at the omphalos of ancient England there may be more eyes to witness the festival occurrence than the pair in the head of a night watchman.

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Necessary it may be, but it is said to have Stonehenge shut off for the summer solstice behind a barbed-wire entanglement and its judicial equivalent, an injunction. Stonehenge is a place of mysterious origin and uncertain function. It had been a sanctuary for two millennia and was probably already in a state of decay before the ancient Druids came to Britain. Any connection, if there is one, between them, Salisbury Plain, and contemporary robbers, who are the product of antiquarian romanticism, is fortuitous.

Nevertheless Stonehenge speaks of the origins of the British race. It is, beyond other public memorials, the property of all of us, cultists, freaks, zanies, hippies, fringes, drop-outs as much as cultural bureaucrats, Pevsnerians, stockbrokers driving west, school parties and fly-drive American matrons. Since it is a numinous place, it belongs perhaps a little more to those, however categorized, who are open to that influence; and a little more still to those who are attracted there by cultic observances, spurious though their practices may appear to the scholarly or hard-boiled.

The custodians of the monument have a hard time of it. They first of all have to cope with the general tendency of tourism to kill by keenness. Places famed for their antiquity,

strangeness, rich associations or beauty are at risk to numbers. Their individual virtues even may seem to be worn down by innumerable instances of being looked at. The superficial symptoms of this condition are car parks, lavatories, litter bins, notices and worn turf.

On top of that the custodians have had to defend their space for the past 10 years or so against an annual invasion of hippies drawn to a free festival of amplified music, drugs and sex. Not all the 30,000 or so have come only for that. Harmless, more elevated and less carnal desires have been woven into the affair. But its impact has been pretty devastating.

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This year the custodians went to court and got an injunction banning the festival. The police

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Chancellor misses Tokyo trip to face JMB music

Faced with the choice of a trip to Tokyo for the Group of 10 finance minister's meeting or a statement and probably a debate in Parliament on Johnson Matthey Bankers...

Almost certainly tomorrow, the Chancellor will unveil important changes to the way banking supervision is carried out in the United Kingdom.

Abolishing present distinctions between recognized banks and licensed deposit takers, allowing bank auditors to talk to supervisors and bolstering the Bank of England's supervisory department...

However, only the Bank of England is in a position to lay this particular ghost to rest. If the official account this week of what happened at JMB and the subsequent rescue fails to satisfy reasonable minds...

As for Mr Lawson, he will need to satisfy Parliament that the measures to stiffen the supervisory regime will help to prevent another JMB occurring in the future.

Yesterday the Chancellor was fighting on another JMB front, replying to a parliamentary question from Mr Tony Blair, Labour Treasury spokesman...

"No I did not know," the Chancellor said yesterday. His officials were only told a day later. As it happens the Governor of the Bank of England did not know either...

As to whether taxpayers' money was at stake, the Chancellor yesterday adopted the same line with Mr Blair that the Bank of England has consistently taken: taxpayers' money was not involved since the money came from the Bank's own resources...

Escape clause for bond washers?

In an article in The Times (May 24), Mr John Moore, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, described how the Govern-

Treasury plays down rise in public spending of £748m

By Sarah Hogg, Economics Editor

Public spending increases of £748 million for this year were announced by the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Mr John Moore...

Further increases are in the pipeline, after the announcement of increases ranging from 5.1 per cent to 7 per cent in social security benefits.

Further figures announced yesterday showed that the public sector borrowing requirement for the first two months of 1985-86 totalled £2.8 billion...

The new estimates represent a much larger addition to public spending than last summer's increase, but this year only £350 million is being taken from the Chancellor's "contingency re-

serve", which at £5 billion is considered large enough to absorb all the extra pressures. The remaining increases are to be squeezed out of existing programmes...

Also on the revenue side, however, there is expected to be some shortfall in oil taxation, though higher-than-forecast inflation will mean higher receipts from VAT.

On the spending side, these estimates represent only the early evidence of spending pressures. The most important items are £123 million more for subsidized export credits...

Still to come are: Higher social security payments. Spending plans were drawn up on the assumption that the May inflation rate would be 4.7 per cent...

Industrial output up 2½%

By Our Economics Editor

The output of the production industries rose 2½ per cent in February-April, compared with the previous three months, according to preliminary official statistics.

Government statisticians calculate that the strike reduced output by only 2 per cent in February-April, compared to 3½ per cent in the preceding three months.

Manufacturing output, which was little affected by the strike, was 2½ per cent higher than in the same three months of 1984. Overall output of the production industries was 3 per cent higher. This does appear to represent a real increase.

IN BRIEF

Philips in China deal

Philips, the Dutch electrical group, has signed an agreement with the Chinese to manufacture colour television tubes in China.

A factory is to be built in Nanjing, capable of producing 1.5 million colour tubes a year. The plant is expected to become operational at the end of 1987.

The move follows Philips' agreement in April to establish an audio equipment factory in Peking, and a number of important contracts last year to supply the Chinese with consumer electronics equipment.

Philips is to take a 30 per cent interest in the new factory.

Cape loss

Cape Industries has reported a pre-tax loss of £4.5 million in the 15 months to March 31, down from a profit of £4.8 million in the previous year.

Turnover rose from £214.1 million to £249.1 million. No dividend will be paid.

Tempus, page 17

Erskine House reported a 67 per cent leap in pre-tax profits from £1.1 million to £1.8 million for the year to the end of March. The company expects to make a large acquisition in the US where it wants to move into the pest control business.

Fenner dividend

J. H. Fenner is paying an unchanged interim dividend of 2p for the six months to March 2, after pre-tax profits fell from £2 million to £643,000, a 50 per cent rise in the 1984/85 payment was warranted during the takeover bid for the group by Hawker Siddeley last year.

Tempus, page 17

Brewery payout

Mansfield Brewery is to pay a final dividend of 6p, making 8.25p for the year to March 29 - an increase of 3.1 per cent, after pre-tax profits fell from £8.5 million to £7.8 million. The group is also raising £20 million through a debenture issue to help finance its £42 million acquisition of North Country Brewery.

Tempus, page 17

Meyer setback

Profits at Meyer International, the timber company, fell from £32.7 million to £30.3 million in the year to March 31.

Tempus, page 17



Robert Thornton: "bullish" about consortium

Debenhams hopeful on counter bid

By Patience Wheatcroft Debenhams is putting the final touches to its defence against Burton Group's takeover bid. "We will be issuing the document before the end of this week," Mr Robert Thornton, the chairman, says.

Meanwhile he claims that he is closer to organizing a friendly consortium to make a counter bid. "A company reconstruction is a definite option now," Mr Thornton says of his plans for a consortium bid. "I am quite bullish about the prospects for it."

The Debenhams defence document is likely to forecast that profits this year will rise by more than £20 million to top £60 million. It will also include a reference to the value of the retail chain's properties, shown in the accounts at £265 million but worth substantially more.

NM Rothschild, the merchant bank, is advising on the defence document but Kleinwort Benson is endeavoring to arrange the consortium takeover.

Mr Thornton apparently believes that a consortium would enable the Debenhams business to remain intact.

Mr Tim Holland-Borsworth of Kleinwort said last night that he was "fairly close" to finalizing such a consortium.

"There has been a great deal of interest in the idea," he said. Among those who are believed to be involved are Standard Chartered and Harris Queensway, which already has joint control with Debenhams.

The company's chairman will be Mr Leslie Silver, who founded Kalon in 1947 and who will retain a near 60 per cent stake through family trusts.

A special dividend of 0.8p a share will be paid in 1985.

Morgan Guaranty prime rate cut to lowest since 1978

From Baily Morris, Washington

Morgan Guaranty Trust Co yesterday became the first big United States bank to lower its prime lending rate to 9.5 per cent, the first time it has dipped below 10 per cent since 1978.

The Southwest Bank of St Louis had lowered its prime rate late on Monday. Other banks are expected to follow Morgan's lead, bringing a general lowering of base rates in response to new action by the US Federal Reserve Board.

Officials of the board have in recent weeks indicated that they intend to take steps to lower rates "whenever there is an appropriate window" in order to bring down the dollar and stimulate dormant business activity.

A Federal Reserve official said at a recent Tokyo conference that the central bank was concerned by the sharp slump in US manufacturing activity

caused largely by the continued strength of the dollar.

There is a growing consensus among bankers and economists that the Federal Reserve will again lower the discount rate, perhaps as early as this week.

The Southwest Bank of St Louis had lowered its prime rate from 7.5 per cent to 7 to stimulate activity. Last month the Fed lowered the discount rate from 8 per cent to 7.5.

Market analysts have for weeks anticipated that big banks would move to a lower prime rate because of the sharp reduction in their own cost of funds and weak US loan demand.

In addition, because of statements by Fed officials and a recent US growth of just 0.7 per cent in the first quarter, markets expect further credit easing measures.

Mr Allen Sinai, chief economist at Shearson Lehman Brothers, said: "The recession in

the US manufacturing sector makes inevitable some additional easing moves by the Fed. A big chunk of the economy is in trouble. The Fed simply cannot sit on its hands."

The US Department of Commerce will on Thursday release its "flash" forecast for US gross national product in the second quarter. This is expected to reflect continued weakness, growing at a rate of about 2.5 per cent.

The US Treasury has levied stiff fines on four of America's biggest banks for failure to report international currency transactions required under US laws.

Chase Manhattan Bank was fined \$360,000 for 1,442 reporting violations, manufacturers Hanover Trust, \$320,000 (1,393 violations) Irving Trust Co, \$295,000 (1,242) Chemical Bank, \$210,000 (857).

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Baillie sets up £8m Japan trust

By Alison Eadie

Baillie Gifford, the Edinburgh fund management group, is building on its success in Japan by launching Baillie Gifford Shin Nippon, an £8 million investment trust specializing in smaller Japanese companies.

The trust will invest in companies with annual revenues of less than 50 billion yen (£155 million), over-the-counter stocks and unquoted stocks.

Baillie Gifford has £160 million invested in Japan out of total funds under management of £900 million. Baillie Gifford Japan Trust, launched in December 1981 and with £29 million under investment, was the top performing trust in the years to December 1983 and 1984 measured by total return on net assets.

Up to 16 million Shin Nippon shares at 50p each are being offered for sale. Institutions have already spoken for the whole issue, but 25 per cent is being set aside for the public.

The issue comes with one warrant for every five shares, exercisable on April 30 between 1986 and 1996, to subscribe for one share at 50p.

Placing capitalizes Kalon at £35m

Dealing begins on Monday in the shares of Kalon Group, the paint manufacturing company formed out of the reverse takeover by Kalon, the private company, of the loss-making quoted company, Leyland Paint and Wallpaper.

Ten million shares were placed yesterday at 30p, capitalizing the group at £35 million. Leyland shares were suspended in April at 33½p, capitalizing the company at £5.1 million.

Kalon's market share of decorative paint sold to retailers will be 16 per cent, second only to ICI and about the same share as Crown. It is the largest "own label" paint manufacturer in Britain.

The company's chairman will be Mr Leslie Silver, who founded Kalon in 1947 and who will retain a near 60 per cent stake through family trusts.

A special dividend of 0.8p a share will be paid in 1985.

MARKET SUMMARY table with columns for STOCK MARKETS, MAIN PRICE CHANGES, CURRENCIES, and INTEREST RATES.

WALL STREET

Rates cut lifts Dow

Table of stock market data including Dow Jones Industrial Average, S&P 500, and various sector indices. Includes columns for index name, current value, and change.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up 12.3 points to 1300.52. The index had been up eight points immediately after the prime rate announcement but then gave up some of the gain. Advances led declines by a two-one ratio on volume of 30.69 million shares.

Sony led the actives, down 1/4 to 15%. The company reported its six-month group net profit rose to yen 38.11 billion (£117 million) from yen 35.01 billion.

RCA was up 1 to 45%, its unit Herco Corp. is being bought by UAL Inc. for \$887.5 million. UAL Inc. the parent company of United Airlines, was down 1/4 to 53%.

Hewlett Packard was down 1/4 to 31%. R J Reynolds was up 1/4 to 31%. IBM was up 1/4 to 23%. General Electric was up 1/4 to 59%.

COMMODITIES

The steadily weaker dollar brought the arbitrageurs into the markets yesterday, selling London and buying New York. After a slow start, cocoa attracted some trade buying, but that turned to selling in the afternoon and cocoa ended the day lower. Coffee also saw some trade hedging.

Table of commodity prices including Rubber, Soybean Meal, Soybean Oil, and various metals like Aluminum and Zinc.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

The likelihood of a half-point cut in the Federal Discount rate by the weekend had been well anticipated yesterday in an initial markdown in dollar values, but growing speculation that a larger reduction may be instigated by the Federal Reserve put some pressure on the dollar during the mid-session.

Table of foreign exchange rates for various currencies including Sterling, Swiss Franc, and Japanese Yen.

Table of other sterling rates and dollar spot rates for various international locations.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures prices for three-month sterling, three-month US dollar, and various interest rate futures.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Table of money market rates for various maturities (1 month, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months) and gold prices.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of investment trusts performance, listing various trusts and their returns.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table of financial trusts performance, listing various trusts and their returns.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Large table of unit trust information, listing various unit trusts, their managers, and performance metrics.

Bid run as tr... (Vertical text on the right edge of the page)

TAXATION

What new rules against bond washing will mean to securities market

By Frederick Bleasdale

On February 28, the Inland Revenue brought the gilt-edged market to a halt by announcing that the tax net was being widened to capture tax on accrued interest whenever there was a transaction, however innocent, in gilt-edged and other interest-bearing securities.

Without selling some accrued income with them, as that is how their price is quoted. Virtually every disposal except a few which in timing are closely related to the payment of dividends gives rise to some form of bond washing, whether deliberate or not being dependent upon the circumstances.

It appears to the Government to be right to deal with increasing exploitation of this opportunity, which was at a cost to the Revenue, and that is why we have introduced the scheme. It is complicated in detail, but the concept is simple: the interest that accrues on a fixed-interest stock between one dividend date and the next, that part which falls within the ownership of the vendor is to be charged as income to him, and that which falls within the period of ownership of the purchaser will be charged to the income of the purchaser.

The justification for this radical change in the taxation of investment income was said in the Budget speech to be a prospective yield to a full year of £300 million. The breakdown of this estimate has only recently been flushed out of the Treasury: life assurance companies, investment trusts and unit trusts - £175 million. Lloyd's underwriters and discount houses - £100 million. Other taxpayers including individuals - £25 million.

The life offices accounted for much the greater part of the £175 million. The revelation that a select group of institutional investors will produce more than 90 per cent of the additional tax yield. What effect will these changes have on the securities market? Undoubtedly, the life offices and other companies which are trapped by the bond washing provisions will trade less actively. Individuals, who in increasing numbers have recognised the attractions of bond washing, will be "cherry-picked" with the market.

market will experience a decline in volume at a time when the number of market makers is likely to increase. Funds withdrawn from the market could be a marginal factor in sustaining interest rates. A revival of the pitifully small corporate bond market seems an even more distant prospect.

Another damaging development from the investors' point of view is the introduction of dual standards of credibility. Whereas directors of companies are required to disclose all material factors in a prospectus, the Treasury, in its press release of May 30, 1985, rid itself of this responsibility by declining in future to disclose tax changes, decided but not announced, even when they affect the conditions of sale of gilt-edged stocks.

If a security is regarded as being free, as in the case of gilt-edged, the interest yield has two components, a real rate of return and a factor representing the expected rate of inflation. In promoting index-linked savings, the government has conceded that indexation of capital should be tax free. The

principle, which has gained further acceptance by the proliferation of short term low coupon gilts, is that deep discounts has been taken a stage further in this year's Finance Bill.

From the present tax year it is proposed to apply monthly indexation for capital gains tax purposes, providing investments are held for at least 10 days. This desirable change may have been developed by one team at Somerset House while their colleagues hatching the bond washing provisions were unaware of its significance.

The inequity of taxing capital as income, with no relief for indexation, is clearly shown in the following example. A taxpayer, liable at 60 per cent maximum rate, will suffer a real loss in selling a holding of £100,000 10.5 per cent stock after five months interest has accrued:

Table with columns for Sale proceeds, Add accrued interest, Cost, Add 5 months inflation at 6%, Tax on accrued income £4,276 at 60%, Real loss after tax.

As a result of part of the capital received on sale being regarded as income, the investor, even with inflation as low as 6 per cent stands to suffer a real loss. There is one concession to small investors. Where the total nominal value of all bond holdings of a husband and wife does not exceed £5,000 the new provisions will not be applied.

The full horror of what the Treasury intends is that foreseen sixty years ago by Mr Justice Rowlatt. Almost every transaction in gilt-edged stocks

or other interest-bearing securities will in future involve a complex series of adjustments. Under present law, as applied to an individual holding interest-bearing securities, there would normally be no requirement for tax assessments; no tax refunds where the recipient is liable for tax; no adjustment of investment cost for capital gains tax.

The Finance Bill requires, in respect of each gilt-edged or other bond holding, detailed calculations for each interest period, generally every six months.

For example, as The Chartered Association of Certified Accountants has shown, an individual receiving 18 months interest on a stock would discover that if he made a single switch in his holdings in that period, Schedule D Case VI assessments are required in two tax years, because each purchase involved accrued interest, which would be regarded as capital, part of the tax deducted from the next interest payment would be refundable but the Revenue will decide to make refunds; capital gains tax computations, subject to multiple adjustments, would have to be made.

If Parliament adopts the bond washing proposals, it will need to examine rigorously the ideas for the transitional year, that is to February 27, 1986. New players are being actively discouraged from entering the market, while old hands will need professional advice. There will be no requirement to disclose bond washing profits on tax returns, but the Revenue may call for information and will be able to raise assessments in where the circumstances justify.

So a novel form of taxation is to be applied for an unusual period in the year to February 27, 1986 and to be imposed only at the discretion of the Inspector of Taxes. Institutions with multiple dealings and large portfolios may escape any tax in the transitional year, because it is unlikely that the Inspector of Taxes will be able to process the mass of information supplied.

The Exchequer expect no yield from the transitional year and yet Parliament is being asked to enact a terrorising set of rules which will be applied on a discretionary basis.

Individuals should not be deterred from supporting the bond market, as well they might, due to the complexity of the scheme and the size of the bills from their professional advisers. On grounds of the administrative burden, if on no other, individuals should be excluded from the scheme. An abiding conclusion is that a consistent interpretation of such complex legislation is very unlikely.

The author is immediate past president of The Chartered Association of Certified Accountants.

TEMPUS

Cape holds out little hope of recovery

Cape Industries had little in the way of crumbs of comfort to offer shareholders when it unveiled preliminary figures yesterday for a miserable 15 months to March 31.

The losses and write-offs were as bad as predicted at the time of the capital reorganisation and rights issue announced in March. Worse, though, was the lack of any real optimism about the recovery potential of the continuing businesses.

The pretax loss of £4.5 million, down from a profit of £4.8 million comprised a £6.8 million surplus from the continuing businesses, offset by losses of £5.5 million from businesses discontinued and interest of £5.8 million. Now shorn of virtually all asbestos-related products, which have been at the root of Cape's problems, the company finds that its turnover is almost entirely linked to the building and construction industry, not a sector renowned for its growth potential.

Cape admits that the best it can hope for from its building products activities is to hold its own. No growth is expected from the contracting division although there is an element of loss elimination available. The interest bill could be halved but profits in the current year will only be about £6 million.

It is hardly the kind of performance which will lead the board to the automatic conclusion that dividend payments should be restored next year.

At the year end shareholders funds were £22 million and debt was £45 million. After the asset sales and fund raising, debt fell to £30 million. The aim is to reduce borrowings to £20 million this year which, even allowing for the inflow of further instalments from the asset sale proceeds, remains an ambitious target.

The shares were unchanged at 46p, but the company's future will depend very much on the benevolence of Charter Consolidated, the majority shareholder.

Mansfield Brewery and J H Fenner

The miner's strike and its aftermath continue to affect companies in the most unusual and unpredictable ways, linking groups with no nominal

connections under a common cash of misfortune. Yesterday, it was the turn of the regional brewer, Mansfield Brewery, and J H Fenner Holdings, the power transmission specialist, to report figures which were both distorted by Mr Arthur Scargill's fight against the NCB.

Mansfield reckons that it was lucky to escape relatively unscathed from the strike, on a pro forma basis. Brewing profits actually rose in the year to March from £7.5 million to £7.9 million, as the group continued to push strongly for volume growth, mainly through the take-home market. The big casualty was in the Mansfield soft drinks division, where highly aggressive pricing structure within a deeply competitive market trimmed profits by about £1 million to £528,000.

But these figures are relative. Mansfield is an ambitious group with a corporate strategy. On this basis, the dispute cost something like a year's growth in brewing profits, or about £1 million. This, coincidentally, is the amount by which the group overdrift rose last year.

The impact of these lost cash flows show up in the group gearing levels, after the £42 million cash purchase of North Country Brewery from Northern Foods. Gearing, on a consolidated basis, is now 90 per cent of Mansfield equity.

The fact that North Country was bought on an exit multiple of 2.7 puts a high premium on Mansfield's skills. Mansfield plainly did not allow the dispute to stand in the way of its acquisition programme, but at the considerable risk of jacking up its operational gearing.

Fenner's plight looks, at first blush, more straightforward. Mining business accounts for more than a quarter of group sales. Not surprisingly, group loss of profit from mining dispute fall-out may have been as high as £1.5 million, accounting for the bulk of the interim profits downturn. Demand from the NGB is still sluggish.

Yet sadly, things are not so simple. In 1983-84, Fenner succeeded in fighting off an unwelcome bid from Hawker Siddeley by promising a 50 per cent rise in 1984-85 dividend. The group's finances are now so devastated -

witness the present £10 million asset disposal programme - that the interim payment is held at 2p a share. Yesterday, the shares shed 10p to 12 1/2p, about 20p down on Hawker's bid terms. Courtesy of the NUM - NCB struggle, Fenner looks vulnerable to a return call from Hawker Siddeley.

Meyer International

The buildup of a potentially predatory stake of almost 5 per cent prompts most companies to talk defensively of an imminent takeover. Meyer International is an exception. Despite Adelaide Steamship's recent share purchases, Meyer has given warning of further trading difficulties.

Meyer's chairman, Mr Ron Groves, believes the bottom of the timber cycle has yet to be touched. By merging Montague 1, Meyer with International Timber he has not stopped the wooden wheel turning. Like most commodity businesses, timber is still cyclical.

Last year, profits fell by £2.5 million to £30.3 million despite a £2 million cut in contributions to the pension fund. The company suffered from a fall in house starts and the effect of volatile currencies, which knocked £2 million off the value of timber stocks. A further profits fall looks likely this year.

If a bid were to emerge, however, Mr Groves could claim the wooden wheel now turns in a higher sphere. Before the merger the best the two companies could produce was profits of £25 million. That should now be Meyer's lowest point with a peak possibly twice that.

This upwards shift owes most to a £50 million cut in borrowings to just £26 million. Interest charges fell by £2 million last year alone. The company has also switched its emphasis from trading timber to the steadier business of merchanting.

Mr Groves is not likely to use his new found financial strength in a diversifying acquisition. He knows the timber market too well. If a bid does arrive he will simply have to point to the new level of potential earnings. The current multiple of 14 1/2 and share price of 144p are agreed, concerned about the downward than prospects two or more years out.



'Sale gives rise not to income tax but to possible CGT' - IAN STEWART, ECONOMIC SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY.

STOCK MARKET

Bid rumours boost Allied-Lyons as trading slows for Ascot

By Derek Pain and Cliff Feltham

Takeover favourites once again claimed the stock market spotlight yesterday. The start of Royal Ascot and the continuing new issue drain combined to drag attention away from leading equities and by the close the market was looking very neglected.

Trading was again quiet and often required only modest interest to create a sharp price movement. At first equities had seemed inclined to build on Monday's advance. But enthusiasm soon began to evaporate, despite rising hopes that American interest rates will soon be cut.

The FT 30-share index, at one time sporting a 2.8-point gain, closed 2.5 points down at 983. The main broadly based FT SE share index finished with a fall of 0.4 points at 1,284.0.

Government stocks added up to £4 as sterling benefited from the USM has attracted another food group. Anitrac, which packs and distributes vegetables, is forecasting profits of £700,000 for its current year, paying the shares, placed by Grieverson, Grant and Co., the brokers, at 138p, on 13.6 times prospective earnings. Dealings are due to start on Monday.

The stronger pound which climbed above 1.30 against the dollar. Among speculative stocks Allied-Lyons gained 1p to a 218p peak at one time. The shares rose to 216p.

Suggestions that Allied could attract a bid - or may launch a major bid on its own account - swayed round. There has been keen buying recently and many observers feel that this interest is not entirely due to the share re-rating which has been evident in recent months.

Arthur Bell, the Scotch whisky group on the receiving end of an unwelcome £300 million-plus offer from Guinness, shaded 2p to 271p as more of the suggested courtship bidders ruled themselves out of the action. Guinness held at 256p.

The drinks takeover speculation spilled over to Distillers Co., the Scotch whisky and gin group. The shares jumped 13p to 300p. Inevitably Hanson Trust was mentioned as a possible bidder.

presence has been rumoured, achieved an early rise to 201p but then faded to 197p. Thorn EMI lost 8p to 426. TI group on one time riding hopefully at 280p had to be content with a mere 2p gain to 276p.

Mr Alan Brooker, chairman of the information group Eitel, said last night that he had no plans to meet Dr Ashraf Marwan, the Egyptian businessman who has emerged with a 5.01 per cent shareholding.

Dr Marwan, who paid around £6 million for his 7.8 million shares, is already stringing on a profit. Eitel shares rose a further 1.4p yesterday to 255p to take the two-day gain to 27p.

Mr Brooker, who repeated that he was "not concerned but interested" in the situation, said he understood that there had not been a great deal of trading in the shares yesterday. Eitel has been tipped as a likely takeover candidate for some time and speculation suggests that Dr Ashraf may have been tempted to acquire his holding with a view to passing it on to an eventual bidder at a higher price.

Windsor Securities held at 57p as "rebel" shareholders led by Mr John Carr's Lander Investments, claimed the support of shareholders representing 48 per cent of the capital.

The crucial shareholders' meeting to elect new directors is due to take place a week today. Mr Maurice Fullerton, Windsor's chairman, is continuing with negotiations to arrange the acquisition of two insurance brokers. He hopes to have the outline of his proposals available for the shareholders' meeting.

Mr Godfrey Harker, the company's finance director who took the call, said later: "It is very odd. I certainly spoke to the brokers but gave them no information at all."

The two brokers make profits of around £350,000 and, if the takeover goes through, would more than double Windsor's size. Mr Tom Kennys, engineering and packaging group GEI International, which announced a 37 per cent rise in profits to

Another city financial services merger has been unwound. This time, it is the Leeds property group Parkdale Holdings which had planned to set up a unit trust management company to run authorised unit trusts as a joint venture with the broker Smith Kean Carter. Apparently the broker decided to go its own way.

£4.2 million for last year, is on the look-out for acquisitions. Mr Kenny is now in talks with a company involved in the manufacture of packaging machinery but will not put any figure on the likely deal.

Meanwhile, he is expressing optimism about the current year, with satisfactory order books. The shares finished 2p lower at 120p.

What caused the sudden jump in the share price of Ricardo Consulting Engineers, the Sussex engine design business?

The shares showed a rare burst of speed to climb 12p to 100p. During an early morning telephone call to the company, its broker, James Capel, said it wanted to reaffirm its profit forecast for the current year, which was about to be ruled off.

Apparently satisfied, the broker stuck with its £2 million projection, then decided to readjust the estimate for next year from £2.3 million to £2.4 million.

Birmingham Mint has clinched its long expected £12 million coin deal with the Indian Government. The company will over the next nine months produce 500 million one-rupee coins as its largest ever coin order. BIM is thought to have made profits of £900,000 in its last financial year and, with the Indian contract, could make £1.5 million this year. The shares gained 10p to 235p.

institution has apparently done the rounds of Hawley's trading subsidiaries and liked the look of what it saw. United Wire Group looked firm, with a 12p rise to 193p. The company has been in bid talks since the beginning of the month. United has been steadily pulling itself round following several years of fluctuating fortunes.

Birmid Qualcast, the law-mower group, attracted another flurry of takeover attention. The day's best level was held but the price retained much of Monday's progress. The shares closed 1 1/2p lower at 90p.

The proposed textile merger helped Yantona Vyella 19p better at 363p and Nottingham Manufacturing 12p higher at 266p.

Trading on the London Traded Options Market was quiet with less than 5,000 deals undertaken. BT was the most active trader, attracting 375 calls and 509 puts. The index contract accounted for 282 calls and 321 puts.

APPOINTMENTS

EuroRoute names chief executive

EuroRoute: Mr Robin Biggan has been appointed full-time chief executive of EuroRoute, the United Kingdom partner in the Anglo-French consortium engaged in plans for a road and rail route across the Channel.

Rockwell International Corporation: Mr James D. Cavagnaro has been named president of the graphic systems division.

J. Rothschild Holdings: Mr Andrew Stafford-Deitch has become an executive director. Jarvis Brothers & Brewster (Construction): Mr Bernard V. Elise has joined the board.

Merrett Holdings: Mr David Roberts, Mr David Reid Scott and Mr George Peterka have been appointed directors. Greenwell Montagu Gilt-Edged: Mr J. A. Rickards has been made managing director (trading) and Mr S. J. D. Posford and Mr A. Reid have been named directors of trading.

Clarkson Puckle Group: Mr Neil R. Chapman and Mr Alastair P. Gordon Cumming have joined the board of Clarkson Puckle North America from July 1.

Friends Provident Life Office: Sir Arthur Bryan has been elected to the board. BGC: Mr Stuart Crowther has been appointed to the board as telecoms director. ADS Automation: Mr John Saxton has joined the board and Mr Christopher Papachristos has been appointed managing director of the ADS group's data communications subsidiary, Advanced Data Systems.

Mr Dick Donovan has become general sales manager of Dataline Communications. St James's Public Relations: Mr Peter Binckell has been made a director. Murhead: Mr Peter Holmes, RHP Group chief executive has been appointed chairman and succeeds Sir Raymond Brown. Mr B. D. Crosby has been appointed managing director.

COMPANY NEWS

SUNLIGHT JENNINGS GROUP: Sunlight is raising about £7.4 million, after expenses, by way of an underwritten rights issue of 4,277,309 ordinary shares at 180p per share on a one-for-four basis.

STEINBERG GROUP: Final 1.5p, making 2.2p (same) for the year to March 31. Figures in 2000. Turnover 45,884 (46,077). Pretax profit 2,043 (3,114).

GEI INTERNATIONAL: Final 3.91p, making 5.85p (5.315p) for the year to March 31. Figures in 2000. Turnover 71,715 (62,373). Pretax profit 4,269 (3,102).

ASSOCIATED ENERGY SERVICES: Half-year to March 31. Figures in 2000. No interim dividend. The directors expect an increase in the dividend payable at the year-end. Turnover 2,932 (1,516). Pretax profit 203 (213).

HAT GROUP: HAT reports on behalf of FT Interiors, a subsidiary recently formed from part of HAT's wholly-owned offshoot, HAT plastering, the completion of the purchase of David Gilman. The consideration is £750,000. Further payments of £100,000 and £150,000 will complete the purchase price.

AMALGAMATED FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS: After purchases by clients of Turgoonston Investment Management shares held in investment portfolios managed by them on a discretionary basis in the company amount to 4,892,657 shares representing 25.09 per cent of the issue.

CARLTON COMMUNICATIONS: The company has purchased Michael Cox Electronics, a television products company. The consideration is £2.2 million will be satisfied by the issue of about 162,500 Carlton ordinary shares plus £1.9 million in cash.

ALPHEMBERG: Results for the year to March 31. Final dividend 0.7p. (Figures in 2000). Turnover 8,720 (5,946). Operating profit 1,368 (963). Interest payable 56 (106). Pretax profit 1,312 (877). Tax 626 (542). Minorities credit to be nil. Earnings per share actual tax 5.23p (4.01p). Notional 35 per cent tax 6.47p (4.34p).

purchase from the receiver certain of the on-going construction contracts. It has re-employed most of the management and staff and has purchased the headquarters of the company situated in Leeds.

CULLEN'S HOLDINGS: As a result of a purchase of 430,000 ordinary shares, Westpool Investment Trust is now beneficially interested in 2,807,000 ordinary shares, 26.48 per cent of the issued share capital.

CHAMBERLAIN PHIPPS: Results for the year to March 31. Dividend 2.75p (2.5p) making 3.85p (3.6p). (Figures in 2000). Turnover 93,855 (90,000). Turnover profit 6,751 (5,466). Share of profit of related companies 22 (31). Profit before tax 6,536 (4,838). Tax 2,422 (1,230). Minorities 315 (388). Profit sharing scheme 19 (20). Earnings per share 18.2p (11.97p).

LEIGH INTERESTS: dividend 3p (2p) for the year to March 31. (Figures in 2000). Turnover 24,436 (27,102). Trading profit 1,810 (1,367). After tax profit 1,564 (1,154). Pretax profit 1,135 (559). Including income from fixed assets 51 (53). Tax 509 (279). Earnings per share 6.22p (2.8p).

FRYBERRY PARTNER SHIPS: Proposed 1 for 2 split issue. Final 4.5p making 7.8p (7p) for the year to March 31. (figures in 2000) Group profit before tax on ordinary shares 117 (938). Tax 2.2p (497). Extraordinary debit 2 (31 debit). Transfer to asset replacement reserve 80 (80). Earnings per share 18.6p (13.5p).

ALPHEMBERG: Results for the year to March 31. Final dividend 0.7p. (Figures in 2000). Turnover 8,720 (5,946). Operating profit 1,368 (963). Interest payable 56 (106). Pretax profit 1,312 (877). Tax 626 (542). Minorities credit to be nil. Earnings per share actual tax 5.23p (4.01p). Notional 35 per cent tax 6.47p (4.34p).

AUDITRONIC HOLDINGS: electronic has sold to Brent Communications the main part of a business carried on mainly at Storrington, Sussex, by Scan Data International and certain other companies. The purchase consideration for the purchase of the tangible and intangible operating assets and stock is about £1.2 million cash. There will be a reduction in cash to £30,000. Auditronic's borrowings immediately following the transaction. After collection of trade debtors and payment of trade and other liabilities, the net amount accruing to Auditronic will be about £600,000.

TEX ABRASIVES: conditional contracts have been exchanged for the sale by Tex of certain assets for £275,000 cash. ELS has agreed to acquire a 29.9 per cent interest in Tex from four members of the Evelyn-Jones family and the remainder of their 53.8 per cent interest in Tex has been placed by Sheppard and Chase all at 80p per share.

GEE ROSEN ORGANISATION: Year to March 31. Final dividend 1.5p, as anticipated in prospectus. Figures in 2000. Turnover 7,376 (4,913). Pretax profit 304 (283).

SLATERS FOOD PRODUCTS: Year to March 29. Final dividend 1.3p (1.3p) making 2.2p (2.2p) for the year to March 29. Earnings per share 5.02p (5.02p). Profit before tax 486 (503).

LONDON & OVERSEAS FREIGHTERS: Year to March 31. No dividend (same), figures in 2000. Gross freight and hire earned 28,019 (27,348). Loss on trading 4,549 (8,675). Deficit on disposal of vessel, nil (544). Interest receivable 307 (819). Interest payable 6,846 (6,943). Currency exchange adjustments, credit 1,658 (debit 28). Loss on which no tax is payable 9,460 (15,375). Latest loss is equivalent to £7.4m.

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ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began June 17. Dealings End, June 28. Contango Day, July 1. Settlement Day, July 8. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

THE TIMES Portfolio

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Table with columns: No., Company, Year price rise. Lists various companies under categories like DRAPERY AND STORES, BUILDING AND ROADS, ELECTRICIANS, etc.

Weekly Dividend table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FR, SAT, Week Total.

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns: Name, Price, Change, %.

SHORTS (Under Five Years) table with columns: Name, Price, Change, %.

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: Name, Price, Change, %.

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The folly of

Racing: Classic winners eclipsed by 33-1 chance in Prince of Wales's Stakes

Al Bahathri to lead Coronation parade

By Mandarini (Michael Phillips)

With those two old rivals Al Bahathri and Top Socialite both standing their ground, today's Coronation Stakes should be a sizzling race on this the second day of Royal Ascot. They began this season by fighting out the finish of the Fred Darling Stakes at Newbury in April with victory going to Top Socialite by the narrowest of margins.

Since then they have met in the Irish 1,000 Guineas which Al Bahathri won. On that occasion Top Socialite was threequarters of a length behind her in third place.

In between times they both underlined their class by finishing second in the English and French 1,000 Guineas, respectively. In the past they have met on equal terms.

Today's programme can begin with the champion jockey, Steve Cauthen, winning the first two races for Henry Cecil on Heraldiste (2.30) and Gwydion (3.05).

To fancy Heraldiste in the Jersey Stakes it is necessary to turn a blind eye on this defeat over nine furlongs at Ripon last month and recall instead that he did finish fifth in last season's Dewhurst Stakes, which was run over today's distance, seven furlongs.

That defeat at Ripon has been attributed to lack of stamina. Since then Heraldiste has been working in an eye-catching manner on Newmarket Heath when being honed for this particular task.

And sharp he will have to be to beat Pennington Walk who, with the benefit of hindsight, was obviously attempting the impossible at Ascot last May when he was asked to concede 11lb to Scottish Red.

With seven unbeaten two-year-old fillies in the field the Queen Mary Stakes should be another cracker of a race. In napping Gwydion I have taken due note of Cecil's opinion, which he expressed to me last week, that this daughter of the very fast American horse Raise A Cup is his three-star bet of the meeting.

Apparently, Gwydion has done a superb job of delighting the champion trainer since she overcame considerable difficulties to win her only race at Newmarket nicely, has done nothing but give her trainer Paul Cole heartache in the meantime, so much so that a bout of coughing, that lasted three weeks, has meant that she has had a rushed preparation.

Still she should run well and perhaps gain a place. Kingscote, who was so impressive when winning her only race at Salisbury, the Northern Coronation, has been beaten by the Queen's Vase, a race that he has won three times already. They are the four-year-old Malador, who is unbeaten this season and the year younger Henry The Lion, who is clearly going from strength to strength.

My feeling is that neither will be able to cope with Valuable Witness, especially if we get more rain. For him it is a case of the softer the better, a point underlined by his record at Sandown and Haydock this season.

The Royal Hunt Cup and the Bessborough Stakes, the day's two big handicaps, are both wide open. My selections are Tremblant in the former and the Manx Derby winner, Cianrallier in the latter.



Bairn, and Lester Piggott take command in the St James's Palace Stakes (Photograph: Chris Cole)

Bob Back the surprise packet

By Michael Seely

Both triumph and disaster were mixed together for the punters in a heady cocktail on the opening afternoon of Royal Ascot yesterday. Both Bairn and Rosellion gave challenging displays of speed and class when annihilating their opponents in the St James's Palace Stakes and the Queen Anne Stakes, respectively.

The anticipated match of the century, Pebbles and Commanche Ran for the Prince of Wales's Stakes, however, resulted in a 33-1 triumph for the bookmakers and Michael Jarvis when Bruce Raymond drove Bob Back to a convincing victory over the two classic winners.

No hint of the impending disaster could be seen as Lester Piggott immediately sent the St. Ledger winner into the lead. Pebbles, who was content to play a waiting game as the four runners swung into the home straight.

Stepping up the gallop two furlongs from home, Commanche Ran looked all set for victory as the champion jockey drew his whip on Pebbles, Raymond was at this point also hard at work on Bob Back, who was lying in third place against the far rails.

won by one and a half lengths from Pebbles, who snatched second place by a short head.

Bob Back had always been a useful performer, but this sparkling win surprised even his trainer for whom the colt had won a group one race at Campanile in Italy earlier in the season.

Clive Brittain was satisfied that Pebbles had given her running. 'I've got to be realistic. I always thought she'd beat Commanche Ran and if the owners are willing we'll still go for the Eclipse.' However, it is clear that she checked in last season's 1,000 Guineas and the filly, who also finished runner-up to Palace Music in last Autumn's Champion Stakes, was her usual zealous self.

The trainer also had news of three best older horses in training. I'm not going to put Commanche Ran back to longer distances. The Eclipse remains his objective.

Naturally the trainer was in a far more buoyant mood after Bairn had secured handsome compensation for his narrow defeat by Shadee in the 2,000 Guineas when springing to an authoritative win over Scottish Red and Vin de France. This result represented a marvellous vindication for classic form as Piggott rode a calm and confident waiting race on Sheikh Mohammed's Northern Baby colt.

'Lucky I've been able to give the horse a thorough preparation', said Cunniff 'when he had that bruised foot before the Derby, it became something of a stop-go business as we struggled to get him ready in time. We'll now go for the Sussex Stakes and perhaps try a longer distance in the Autumn.'

Michael Stoute was similarly pleased with the running of Scottish Red, who has made such a dramatic graduation through handicap company to winning the Dromedary Stakes by 12 lengths, and finishing in a credible second in this Group five race. 'He's so much a better horse on soft ground, that I'm going to wait until later in the summer for a race like the Waterford Crystal Mile.'

The trainer also had news of

Masterly Thomson cuts a dash on speedy Sure Blade

By John Karter

England might have silenced the old enemy up at Headingley, but a certain baby-faced Australian named Brent Thomson got one back over the Poms when he produced every ounce of his singular talent to drive Sure Blade to victory the Coventry Stakes at yesterday's Ascot two-year-old feature.

Thomson, born in New Zealand, but a naturalized Australian, is in his second season over here, riding for Robert Sangster, and already his consummate talent had the superlatives training down around his ears like the surf on Bed Beach. Reserved, but thoroughly affable, Thomson may look more like a choir boy than a hard-headed horseman, but once astride his half-a-ton horse flesh, he is the complete master, not only in terms of timing and judgment, but sheer strength as well.

It was this last quality that Thomson needed most yesterday when he brought Sure Blade to challenge the leaders just over a furlong from home. At this stage, half a dozen were vying for the lead, with Steve Cauthen on Mazzaad, owned like Sure Blade, by Sheikh Mohammed and carrying his first colours, seeming to hold a clear chance of opening his Ascot account.

However, even Cauthen's wizardry could not conjure any extra from his flagging partner, and the issue resolved itself into a three way dog fight between Thomson on Sure Blade, Pat Eddery on the unbeaten Moorgate Man and Greville Starkey, perpetrator of that brilliant opening strike with Roussillon, on the latter's stable companion, Cliveden.

Barry Hills, the trainer of Sure Blade, is of course no stranger to success at the royal meeting. He was more than usually confident about Sure Blade's chance, his description of the colt as having 'an extra gear' proving tellingly accurate.

The July Stakes at Newmarket next month will be our next opportunity to see this fine son of Slip Anchor's sire, Kris in action. Moorgate Man, on the other hand, may reappear a good deal sooner - tomorrow to be exact - as Ron Bossi's trainer, is seriously considering running him in the Chesham Stakes.

Cauthen, who had been offered at the miserly odds of 5-2 to win the Ascot riders' title before the meeting started, had one of those days which ultimately left him frustrated and his backers reaching for the valium bottle.

After such a Pebbles, Mazzaad and company had come close, but not close enough, the American looked sure to win the Ribblesdale Stakes on Little Deep Water, who he shot Henry Cecil's filly into a clear lead approaching the final bend.



Tony Murray teams up with the Tom Jones-trained filly Al Bahathri in the Coronation Stakes

ROYAL ASCOT

[Television: BBC1: 2.30, 3.5, 3.45. BBC2: 4.20]

Going: Good to firm.

Table of race results for Royal Ascot, including race numbers, names of horses, jockeys, and times.

Ascot selections

Table of race selections for Royal Ascot, listing race numbers, horse names, and jockeys.

4.20 CORONATION STAKES (Group 1) (3-year-old fillies; £29,238; 1m) (7)

Table of race results for the Coronation Stakes, including horse names, jockeys, and times.

4.50 BESSBOROUGH HANDICAP (Class B) (2m) (20)

Table of race results for the Bessborough Handicap, including horse names, jockeys, and times.

5.30 QUEEN ANNE STAKES (Group 1) (3-year-old fillies; £29,238; 1m) (7)

Table of race results for the Queen Anne Stakes, including horse names, jockeys, and times.

BEVERLEY

Going: Good to firm

2.15 MIDDLETON TELLING STAKES (2-year-old; £293; 5f) (7 runners)

Table of race results for the Middleton Telling Stakes, including horse names, jockeys, and times.

2.45 SUSANSON 3.15 NARNIA 4.10 INAH 4.40 LUX PERPETUA 5.10 DANCE OF LIFE

2.45 HOLDERSHIP HANDICAP (Class B) (2m) (12)

Table of race results for the Holdership Handicap, including horse names, jockeys, and times.

3.15 HUNLEY BEACON MAIDEN STAKES (Class B) (110; 1m) (4)

Table of race results for the Hunley Beacon Maiden Stakes, including horse names, jockeys, and times.

3.40 JACK COLLING MEMORIAL APPRENTICE HANDICAP (Class B) (10)

Table of race results for the Jack Colling Memorial Apprentice Handicap, including horse names, jockeys, and times.

4.10 DERWENT HANDICAP (Class B) (110; 1m) (12)

Table of race results for the Derwent Handicap, including horse names, jockeys, and times.

5.10 YORK & AINSLEY HANDICAP (Class B) (110; 1m) (11)

Table of race results for the York & Ainsley Handicap, including horse names, jockeys, and times.

15-8 Training: Top...

14-4 Earl's Court...

Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, featuring a portrait of a man and text for 'Sports Comment' and 'Limits of relief exploration'.

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This is one of the most senior secretarial positions in London. You would have your own office in the West End HQ of one of Britain's largest and most successful companies. Your rewards would reflect your status, but you would be expected not only to serve the Chairman himself, but also to co-operate effectively with his Personal Assistant. Shorthand/typing (100/60 - ideally accurate) will occupy only half your time; administration - including the mail, the chauffeur, diaries, meetings, travel arrangements, filing etc - the rest. IBM WP and PC training if needed. Large company experience, organisational ability, A-level education, discretion and a reliable, conscientious disposition are essential. Age: 20 to 35ish. Wide range of very generous benefits. Ring

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 38 Piccadilly, London W1V 9PB

PA to MD £9,500

This is a first-class opportunity for a 'promotable' Secretary. Our clients, well-established and renowned in the financial services field, seek an able and reliable person to become PA to Managing Director. He is young, charming and anything but desk-bound. In addition to organising travel, meetings, diary etc. you will be involved in a great deal of client contact, liaison with other Directors and running the office in his absence. Pleasant City-based offices. Good presentation, good communication skills and good accurate typing are requested (no shorthand). Age 25+. Please telephone 01-493 5787.
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 Marsh & Parsons, a well established firm of chartered Surveyors and estate agents, are seeking a bright, experienced and well presented person to join their Notting Hill Gate office. Proven ability, enthusiasm and a sense of humour will be met with a good salary, a friendly environment and a rewarding career. Please telephone Fiona Dunlop 937 8760 (no agencies please)

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 Total involvement and variety assured when you join the blue-chip company in Knightsbridge, as PA to a dynamic American Director in the leisure / entertainment industry. Good typing and personality essential. Please
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PA/ADMIN
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01-439 0601

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Recruitment Consultants
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PA TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Key Banking Appointment

This key appointment in the City demands an outstanding Secretary to work for the Chief Executive of a leading Merchant Bank. He is heavily involved in expanding the Bank's influence within the new structure presently transforming the City of London. The Bank's salary and benefits offered will reflect the seniority of this position.

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THE TIME HAS COME IN THE CITY

Bankers are tying the knot with City stockbrokers creating opportunities on an unprecedented scale. This new and growing relationship offers unparalleled scope for your progression as a Secretary in the City.

MacBlain Nash & Associates will answer questions on the changes and provide all the guidance you need to seal your success in the City.

Invest correctly in your future - contact **Clare Hudson B.A.** for information.
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(Financial Consultants)

01-499 9175

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Our Client, a major influence in the UK Oil Industry, is looking for a bright young Secretary (190/60) to work in a department specifically set up for their business activities in Africa. As a lot of time is spent dealing with the French speaking areas, a knowledge of the language would be useful, but not essential. Also, experience on one of the major WPs would be most advantageous as the Company will wish to train you on their own system. This is a temporary appointment with a view to becoming a permanent vacancy in what can only be described as one of the best working environments in London. Please call James Cole on 01-437 8594 for more information.

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A small friendly co. engaged in investment banking seek a mature secretary to join them. Lustrous offices well-equipped with the latest brand new technology. 100/60 skills needed.

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A very successful firm of engineers seeks a senior secretary to a partner. This is a very varied position as you run the office completely with the aid of your own junior secretary. Some W/P experience needed.

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A very famous-name international co. seeks a flexible senior secretary to two directors. They're both extremely pleasant and well organised. Excellent benefits inc. W/P training & £1/day LV's. Age 22-40. 90/60 skills needed.

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A very prestigious City merchant bank seek a well-educated, socially confident secretary to join their chairman's office. You'll be working in the most luxurious surroundings and will enjoy constant contact with VIP's. Excellent benefits inc. mortgage subsidy, free banking & a subsidised lunch. 90/60 skills needed.

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3 Bedford Street Covent Garden WC2 Tel: 01-240 3531
23 College Hill London EC4 Tel: 01-240 3551

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Salary Package c. £10,500

At the centre of BUPA's Headquarters near the Alhwyck, the Director responsible for UK Insurance has set up a management team dedicated to meeting the development needs of BUPA's customers.

He now needs a thoroughly professional secretary to join the team, control his private office and contribute to the continued success of the team.

You are likely to be in your mid-twenties to mid-thirties, confident and alert. Your excellent organisational and administrative skills must be balanced with good shorthand and typing. There is also a full time assistant to help you work both efficiently and effectively.

If your standards are high, we can match them with an attractive package and the prospect of a challenging and rewarding job.

Phone Chris Lenthall on 01-353 5212 ext. 2587 for a preliminary chat.

BUPA
It makes all the difference

TELEVISION

The Independent Television Companies Association represents the sixteen ITV Companies, and is currently seeking to fill two secretarial positions:

Senior Secretary to the Legal Adviser

The ideal candidate for this post will have a high educational standard, to 'A/O' level, be aged 23+, and possess good shorthand of 90 wpm minimum. Accuracy and fast typing of at least 60 wpm minimum, as well as an excellent telephone manner are essential. The person appointed will be used to working with the utmost discretion, and have the ability to work under pressure when necessary.

Secretary

to the European Executive. Candidates should have a comprehensive knowledge of French (spoken and written), as well as good shorthand/typing (100/60 wpm minimum), and audio skills. The ability to work on their own initiative is essential.

An understanding of the EEC Institutions and some knowledge of German would be advantageous.

The salary for both these posts will be according to age and experience.

Applications in writing, with a brief CV, should be submitted by 28 June, 1985, to:

Alison Hall,
Personnel Officer,
ITCA,
Knight House,
56 Mortimer Street,
London, W1N 8AN

Independent Television Companies Association

CJES 35 New Broad Street, London EC2M 1JH
Tel: 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3575
Telex: 887374 Fax: 01-638 9216

New appointment with scope for the future

SECRETARY TO MANAGING DIRECTOR

LONDON EC4 £9,000

SUBSIDIARY OF LEADING CITY MONEY BROKERS

This is an excellent opportunity to join a company at its inception and assist in establishing systems. Our clients are seeking a well-educated secretary, preferably aged 23+ with a minimum of two years' secretarial experience, and good typing and audio skills (shorthand is not essential but would be helpful in taking notes at meetings etc). There will be a preliminary training period learning the business of the whole group and the work will be varied and interesting with increasing delegated responsibilities as the company grows. The successful applicant will have an outgoing personality and flexible approach as well as a confident telephone manner and excellent memory. The atmosphere is friendly, but the environment can be pressurised and sometimes hectic. Base salary is negotiable to £9,000 + discretionary bonus and good company benefits. Applications in strict confidence under reference CMB636/TT to the Managing Director.

Challenging opportunity for mature individual within well-known company.

SENIOR SECRETARY

CAMDEN, LONDON NW1 c.£8,000 PLUS COMPANY BENEFIT INTERNATIONAL COMPUTER AND COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY

Our Client is seeking a mature, flexible secretary (age 23+) for the Facsimile Division. The successful candidate who will be reporting to the Divisional Manager, will be responsible for providing a full secretarial service to the Divisional Manager and his team ensuring the smooth running of the Department. Candidates should have good all round secretarial skills, including shorthand, possess a mature and flexible approach, and be able to work under pressure. Experience in Sales and Marketing or in the high-tech industry would be an advantage. Salary negotiable c.£8,000 per annum plus other company benefits. Applications in strict confidence under the reference SS638/TT to the Managing Director.

CAMPBELL - JOHNSTON EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES, (RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS),
35 NEW BROAD STREET, LONDON EC2M 1JH
TEL: 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3576. TELEX: 887374. FAX: 01-638 9216

Are you worth your weight in gold?

Our client, one of the top American bankers in London, investing substantially in the restructuring of the City, is seeking a highly motivated and versatile secretary to start work immediately. The post will be permanent. However, for the first month you will be working on a temporary basis. You should currently be earning in the region of £9,000 and anxious to make a major move to a top position with a substantial increase in salary to £11,500. Contact Victoria Martin on 01-499 9175.

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Secretary
£8,000

Get involved in the Middle East

Do you have excellent secretarial skills, with audio and shorthand (rusty)? Do you want to get involved in working for this firm of travel consultants, dealing mainly with the exotic fantasies of the Middle East?

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01-839 4833
41 Pall Mall
St James's
London SW1

ALFRED MARKS Recruitment Consultants

PA/SECRETARY TO RESORT DIRECTOR

The British Resort Director of one of the largest sports and leisure complexes in Spain, which is owned by a major British Public company is seeking a PA/Secretary who will be resident in Spain. The complex contains 2 championship golf courses, a tennis village, riding stables & a beach & a water sports club as well as a hotel, villas & apartments.

Applicants should be 28-40 years of age, self-motivated, sports lovers with previous experience in the leisure industry. A sense of humour, an ability to work under extreme pressure & a reasonable command of spoken Spanish is vital. You should enjoy working in a dynamic environment & be used to long & flexible hours. First Class secretarial & administrative skills are essential.

Attractive salary, 20 days holiday plus public holidays, BUPA & return flight concessions. Free accommodation will be provided.

Written applications should be forwarded together with cv & recent photograph to:-

Miss Pearson,
La Manga Club,
62 Brompton Road,
London SW3 1BW.

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Immediate start for a long term assignment. You will need a comprehensive knowledge of personnel functions and secretarial back up for a major international organisation, based in the heart of the West End. In return we will pay you the best rates and offer holiday plus bank holiday pay for the successful candidate.

Telephone for an immediate appointment.

Marcia Lawrence
Temporaries controller
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or call in at
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(beside Burberys)
London W1

ALFRED MARKS Recruitment Consultants

MERCHANT BANK EC3

We require 3 secretaries with a knowledge of Word Processing preferably IBM Display writer.

1. Secretary for Director in Lending Department. Suitable applicant should be in the age group, 25-30, and able to demonstrate the ability to make use of organising and administrative skills, whilst responding under pressure in this demanding position.

2. Secretary for Director in Corporate Finance Department. Requirements will be as for lending department vacancy.

These vacancies offer the opportunity to become totally involved and to this end it is essential that the successful applicant takes a flexible view with regard to hours.

3. Secretary for Chief Accountant. Applicants should be in the age group 25-35. This also is a demanding position as stated in the positions described above. Successful applicants must be fully conversant with an IBM Display writer and preferably with a knowledge of accounting procedures.

Salaries are commensurate with age and experience and the usual bank benefits are available.

Please write to Box No. 2314L The Times enclosing a copy of your C.V. and a daytime telephone number.

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We are a small secretarial agency and our offices are conveniently situated close to both Liverpool Street and Moor-gates. We have a wide variety of opportunities for secretaries with good skills, enthusiasm and initiative.

If you want the right job in the right place, at the right salary.

Please ring 588 3535

Crone Corhill
Recruitment Consultants
18 Eldon Street, EC2

NATIONAL GALLERY PUBLICATIONS
c.£8,500

A senior secretary is required in this expanding operation responsible for the production and sales of all National Gallery books and reproductions.

You will be one of two experienced secretaries providing support for senior management and will need excellent skills and WP familiarity. Your background will probably be that of a commercial office and you will be expected to demonstrate initiative and administrative capabilities.

If you are 28+, write with your CV to:

THE NATIONAL GALLERY PUBLICATIONS
The Publications Manager,
National Gallery Publications,
The National Gallery,
Trafalgar Square,
London WC2N 5DN.

WEST AFRICA INSTRUCTOR

Large multi-national requires a bilingual French/English Secretarial Instructor to train in their translation department. Practical experience is not required but confidence in a secretarial capacity to include word processing, interesting opportunity for someone who is resourceful, patient & adaptable. Salary c.£20,000.

HANOVER-GERMANY TRANSLATOR

Multi-national manufacturers require English to German translator with German to work in their translation department. Practical experience is not required but confidence in a secretarial capacity to include word processing, interesting opportunity for someone who is resourceful, patient & adaptable. Salary c.£15,000.

Multilingual Services
Recruitment Consultants
21 Chancery Lane, WC2
01-836 3794/5

MLS

PA/SECRETARY TO FINANCIAL DIRECTOR

An exciting opportunity has arisen in this prestigious fashion company for a high calibre PA/Secretary to the Financial Director. The successful candidate will be able to provide a full secretarial service to the Financial Director and his staff. Equally as important is a positive, flexible attitude and an ability to work on your own initiative. Preference will be given to applicants familiar with or prepared to train on a "Scribe" Word Processor system.

A competitive salary is offered together with benefits of a business wear allowance, generous personal discount, season ticket loan, staff restaurant and 4 weeks holiday p.a.

Please write in confidence, giving details of age, education, work experience and current salary to **Pauline Castell, Personnel Officer, Country Casuals, 150 Regent Street, London, W1R 5FA.**

COUNTRY CASUALS

Ask Alfred Marks.

Sec to Senior Partner
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Company will cross train

If you have experience of conveyancing work, excellent spoken and written English and a job where you can utilise your audio skills and WP knowledge (using Wordplex Gemini). This well known firm of solicitors in W61, would like to see you!

Call **Samantha James**
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41 Pall Mall
St. James's
London, SW1

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Design Studio £9,000+

Swing into design with your audio skills. The Managing Director of this expanding advertising and design company needs a paragon of efficiency with a sense of humour. This is a lively organisation producing award winning campaigns. You must be prepared to work hard. In return you will have a varied job, an appreciative boss and a good benefits package. Skills: 70 audio. Age: 25-40.

Sports Marketing £8,500

This is your chance to get in at the beginning and be involved in this international sports sponsorship marketing company. The Company is small and the boss needs to be able to delegate to you. Because of the international contacts fluency in German or French as well as top notch secretarial skills are essential. Skills: 100/60. Age: 21-27.

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1st CLASS SERVICE
£10,800 + Mortgage

The new Director within the Financial Futures Division of a prominent banking group requires a secretary to provide a full back-up to him and his small department.

The organisation offers a comprehensive range of financial services to the UK and international business communities. Age 27+ the ideal candidate will be a self-starter, with the capability of handling client enquiries and creating a busy operation.

Word processing skills and good secretarial qualifications (100/60) required.

City Office 01-726 0491

ANGELA MORTIMER

DIVERSE AFFAIRS,
WC1
£10,500

Working in this company specialising in financial public relations you will be part of a small, busy team providing a highly personalised service. As well as using your usual secretarial skills, you will be gathering client information, helping organise press conferences and have constant client contact. An interest in current affairs and a good memory are essential.

The ideal candidate must have good administrative and sales potential skills.

Age 25+ you will have a sound knowledge of word processing and strong secretarial skills (100/60).

City Office 01-726 0491

ANGELA MORTIMER

Secretary to Match
£10,000 package

A light secretary is required by a leading firm of matchmakers to assist the head of Portfolio Management in providing financial advice to a wide range of clients.

You will be confident and able to use your initiative in this busy and varied position, and at the same time have a good sense of humour.

The ideal candidate must have good administrative and sales potential skills.

Age 25+ you will have a sound knowledge of word processing and strong secretarial skills (100/60).

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ETARIES 0668... Young Secretaries... Temporary Secretaries... Receptionist... Typist... Secretary... etc.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, possibly a page number or additional page reference.

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OVERSEAS PROPERTY

The lure of sandy bays, the sea and hunting wild boar

By Diana Wildman

The signing of the treaty of accession for Spain to join the Common Market took place last Wednesday in Madrid.

This could well prove to be the catalyst sorely needed by agents and developers selling Spanish property to encourage potential leisure home owners to invest there.

Spain, the second largest European country, has vast tracts of underdeveloped coastline within reach of international airports.

Seventy miles north of Valencia, the holiday village of Las Fuentes has been developing over the past 20 years, clinging to the wide sandy bays of the Costa de Azahar.

Last year, Premier began building Fuentemar, a leisure complex of 46 apartments and 40 townhouses built round two swimming pools and a club house set in landscaped gardens.

Phase one, due for completion at the end of this year, consists of 16 two and three-bedroom apartments in five different styles, priced between £16,300 and £25,650.

Las Fuentes marina is nearing completion with berths for sale from £7,500 to 15,000 for a 40 year lease on lengths ranging from eight metres to 20 metres.

For the individualist, especially



This three-bedroom townhouse is one of an eventual 40 being built in traditional style at Fuentemar on the Las Fuentes estate in Castellón. Ideal for the holiday-home owner, there will be a rental and management service available to purchasers

anyone with long-term retirement plans, the idea of leasing a villa built to requirement becomes even more appealing when the time taken from choosing a plot to completion should not be much more than six months, provided the client chooses from the standard plans available.

There are three main areas for private villas. The first is at El Pinar, a large hillside area set high above Las Fuentes where land prices, dependent on location, range from £10,500 for a one-third acre plot to £20,000 for a half-acre site.

Within Las Fuentes, on a steeply sloping site, a 10-acre area, Sundex has planning permission for 20 two-bedroom villas each with a half-acre plot, which will be sold, ready to move into, at a total price of around £30,000.

Just outside Las Fuentes, near the old village of Alcoceber, lies another acre of almond groves. In one such grove, planning permission for 13 two-bedroom villas set in half-acre gardens has been given, provided the trees are disturbed as little as possible.

Eleven have been sold with the two remaining priced at £28,000.

Details of all properties from: Premier Overseas Properties, Cromwell House, High Street, Kimbolton.

OVERSEAS PROPERTY Trade 01-837 1987 Private 01-837 3333 or 3311

LOOK AT THIS!! SUPERB MARINA COMPLEX... TOWN HOUSES 4 bed/2 bath, £58,000

MALLORCA'S NEW SUPER PORT... In the bay of Palma, 5 miles Palma, 15 mins approx. 84 berths, 8 to 38 metres, 2 for up to 66 metres each.

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MENTON, FRANCE... Charming 3 bedroom house in Menton, France. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 100 sq. m.

NORTH OF THAMES... 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 100 sq. m. in a quiet area, just 10 mins from the sea.

ST. JAMES'S PLACE LONDON SW1... Outstanding Penthouse Maisonette with Uninterrupted Views Over Green Park

GO DUTCH in DOCKLANDS... And be home before the crowd - 15 minutes to City. Invest in London's top growth area.

Regis Court, NEW ADJOINING DORSET SQUARE... A selection of spacious modernised apartments close to Baker Street Station and Regents Park.

Campden Hill Square, W.8... Huge unconverted apartment on 3 floors, 9 rooms from 15' x 12' to 35' x 20'.

James Macdonald & Co. 7th Floor East Facing Flat... 2 bed 1 bath kitchen & bath. £87,500 to include furniture.

NEWLY CONVERTED CHELSEA HOUSEHOLD... 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 100 sq. m. in a quiet area, just 10 mins from the sea.

FULHAM... Interior designed flat with attract. view, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 100 sq. m.

WARWICK SQUARE SW7... 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 100 sq. m. in a quiet area, just 10 mins from the sea.

QUEENSGATE SW7... Unusual split-level apartment in elegant Victorian setting, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 100 sq. m.

MAYFAIR... PRESTIGIOUS FULLY FURNISHED APARTMENTS TO LET... Situated in a quiet residential location just off Grosvenor Square these apartments are set in a newly refurbished block approached through landscaped wrought-iron gates and a marble courtyard.

SURREYDALE GARDENS KENSINGTON W8... A beautifully modernised and well decorated semi-detached house with especially large and elegant entertaining rooms.

JOHN DAVOOD... CRESSWELL Gdns, SW10... Particularly nice, quiet & well decorated flat on 2nd floor of well decorated period building overlooking private gardens.

BLOOMSBURY AND THE BABY... BARKING EC Superb 2 bed 1st floor flat overlooking canal.

NOTTING HILL GATE... W1. Quiet location overlooking 3 mins walk to Notting Hill Gate Tube.

28 MUSGRAVE LONDON WC1... 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 100 sq. m. in a quiet area, just 10 mins from the sea.

RIVER VIEWS... A vast 8th floor flat with fantastic views over the Thames & London in this popular riverside block close to the city.

VIEWERS OVER THE THAMES - EC1... Just South of Blackfriars Bridge, 2nd floor flat overlooking river.

W1 LARGE STUDIO APARTMENT... Separate kitchen, bathroom, shower, 40-sq-m. lease.

COVENT GARDEN... One bedroom flat for sale in beautifully restored period building in heart of Covent Garden.

Church Vale, W2... Start & Tivendale... 883 0055

James Macdonald & Co. Marylebone Rd, Baker St Junction... 2 bed 1 bath. £87,500 to include furniture.

£180 CONVEYANCING... For buying your home AND finding your mortgage. We charge £180 (VAT & disbursements) PLAT fee.

RESIDENTIAL CONVEYANCING... 1776 - VAT and disbursements for any purchase or sale agreement.

REGENTS PARK (Close) Portland Place W1... 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 100 sq. m. in a quiet area, just 10 mins from the sea.

CHISWICK W4... 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 100 sq. m. in a quiet area, just 10 mins from the sea.

W1 LARGE STUDIO APARTMENT... Separate kitchen, bathroom, shower, 40-sq-m. lease.

COVENT GARDEN... One bedroom flat for sale in beautifully restored period building in heart of Covent Garden.

VILAMOURA PORTUGAL... Luxurious property, 4 bedrooms & 3 bathrooms, 100 sq. m. in a quiet area, just 10 mins from the sea.

PUERTO PUNTA PORTALS S.A. Director Commercial C/Manacor 101, P.O. Box 1125, Mallorca, Spain

TUNISIA... 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 100 sq. m. in a quiet area, just 10 mins from the sea.

MENTON, FRANCE... Charming 3 bedroom house in Menton, France. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 100 sq. m.

NORTH OF THAMES... 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 100 sq. m. in a quiet area, just 10 mins from the sea.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'A listed with a backgro...' and 'Ba...'

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

A listed lodge with a noble background

Somerset Lodge in Petworth, West Sussex, was described by Pevsner in his buildings of England series as the "nicest house in Petworth", quite an accolade in this historic town.



Battle of the sellers' hot up

To judge by the number of new ways of selling a house that are springing up almost daily it might be thought that these were much-needed to fill a gap.

A solicitor's property centre under the auspices of the National Association of Solicitors Property Centres, which was established last year.

One of the ways ahead. We do not know what the state of conveyancing is likely to be in five years' time, but we can now offer the public a good, professional deal.

Christopher Warman Property Correspondent

One of Macartney's finest houses

Kennet Orley, at Woolhampton, near Reading, Berkshire, is considered one of the finest houses built by the architect Sir Mervyn Macartney.

house, overlooking the Kennet Valley, has four reception rooms and seven bedrooms, and stands in nearly nine acres of grounds, which include a secondary five-bedroomed house.

Tucked away in Eaton Terrace, Belgravia, One Grosvenor Cottage is a charming period cottage rarely found in the heart of London.

COUNTRY PROPERTY Trade 01-837 1752 Private 01-837 3333 or 3311

Every Prowling home comes complete with a very exclusive neighbourhood

In carefully selected settings in some of the most beautiful country -side to be found in England, Prowling are developing imaginatively designed quality homes which combine luxury living with true value.

Advertisement for Prowling Estates Ltd featuring a photograph of a house and a list of properties for sale in various locations like Wiltshire and Dorset.

Humberts

Real estate listings under the Humberts brand, including properties in Lincolnshire, Worcestershire, Cornwall, South Wiltshire, and Dorset.

At Midland a bigger mortgage doesn't mean a higher interest rate

Advertisement for Midland Mortgages featuring a cartoon rabbit and text explaining their mortgage rates and services.

OVERSEAS PROPERTY

Overseas property listings including properties in Italy, Turkey, Cyprus, and Spain.

PROPERTY SOUTH OF THE THAMES

Property listings south of the Thames, including properties in Greenwich-Blackheath, Teddington, and other areas.

Midland Mortgages

From the Listening Bank - Interest rates are variable but are correct at time of going to press.

Hampton & Sons

Real estate listings from Hampton & Sons, covering areas like Gloucestershire, Warwickshire, and East of England.

25 Grosvenor Street

Strutt & Parker

Real estate listings from Strutt & Parker, including properties in Wester Ross and Isle of Wight.

Isle of Wight

Real estate listings on the Isle of Wight, including properties in Newport and other locations.

Kent-Hollingbourne

Real estate listings in Kent-Hollingbourne, including properties in Maidstone and other areas.

JOHN D WOOD

Real estate listings from John D Wood, including properties in Berkshire.

WEST SUFFOLK

Real estate listings in West Suffolk, including properties in Bury St Edmunds and other areas.

PROPERTY SOUTH OF THE THAMES

Additional property listings south of the Thames.

PROPERTY TO LET

Property listings for rent, including various residential and commercial properties.

PROPERTY WANTED

Advertisements for properties being sought for purchase or rent.

Today's television and radio programmes

Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

RENTALS ADVERTISING APPEARS ON PAGE 25. Includes various rental services like furniture, pianos, and antiques.

BBC 1
6.00 Ceefax All.
6.50 Breakfast Time with Nick Ross and Debbie Greenwood.

TV-am
6.15 Good Morning Britain, presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen.



The Mimosas Boys on BBC1 at 10.20 pm.

THE MIMOSAS BOYS (BBC 1, 10.20pm) is, I believe, the first drama to be spawned by the Falklands war.

CHOICE
Incident - the bombing of the Sir Galahad in Bluff Cove with which the drama commences.

6.30pm leaves the condoning or the condoning to us. We are not, of course, entitled to do either.

Radio 3
6.55 Ceefax.
7.00 News.

Radio 2
4.08 am Colin Berry, 6.00 Ray Moore, 6.05 Ken Bruce, 10.30 Jimmy Young.

BBC 2
6.30 Open University Recycling Scrap Copper, 6.55 Visual Music.

CHANNEL 4
2.35 Film: Big Rebel (1984) starring Paul Robeson and Elisabeth Welch.

Radio 4
On long wave, 1.80 VHF stereo. 5.55 Shipping, 6.30 8.30 Farming.

Radio 3
6.55 Ceefax, 7.00 News, 7.05 Your Midweek Choice.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS
GRANADA As London except: Professor Kizil, 12.30 pm-1.00.

HITV WEST As London except: Something to Treasure, 12.30-1.00.

ULSTER As London except: 12.30-1.00 Something to Treasure.

TSW As London except: 11.55am-12.00pm Alton Borge, 12.30-1.00.

SCOTTISH As London except: Something to Treasure, 1.20 Job Spot.

BORDER As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Something to Treasure.

ANGLIA As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Whose Baby?

CENTRAL As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Whose Baby?

CHANNEL As London except: 11.55am-12.00pm Alton Borge.

TYNE TEES As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Whose Baby?

YORKSHIRE As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Whose Baby?

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: * Stereo ** Black and white (Repeat)

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET
COLLIERIE ROYAL 12.30-1.00 English National Opera.

THEATRES
CHICHESTER THEATRE 8.00-8.30pm In a View From the Bridge.

THEATRES
DUNDY DE VOISSE 8.00-8.30pm Stepping Out.

THEATRES
LONDON PALLADIUM 8.00-8.30pm Tommy Steele in Singin' in the Rain.

THEATRES
NATIONAL THEATRE 8.00-8.30pm The Company.

THEATRES
PRINCE EDWARD 8.00-8.30pm Evita.

THEATRES
STRAWDON 8.00-8.30pm The New Comedy.

THEATRES
WARRINGTON 8.00-8.30pm The New Comedy.

CONCERTS
ALPHINGTON 8.00-8.30pm The Royal Albert Hall.

CONCERTS
APOLLO VICTORIA 8.00-8.30pm The Royal Albert Hall.

CONCERTS
BARNUM 8.00-8.30pm The Royal Albert Hall.

CONCERTS
BIRMINGHAM 8.00-8.30pm The Royal Albert Hall.

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BRISTOL 8.00-8.30pm The Royal Albert Hall.

CONCERTS
CARDIFF 8.00-8.30pm The Royal Albert Hall.

CONCERTS
GLoucester 8.00-8.30pm The Royal Albert Hall.

CONCERTS
LONDON 8.00-8.30pm The Royal Albert Hall.

ART GALLERIES
ALPHINGTON 8.00-8.30pm The Royal Albert Hall.

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APOLLO VICTORIA 8.00-8.30pm The Royal Albert Hall.

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also on page 28

Donation at door to visit V & A

By David Hewson Arts Correspondent

Only the brave and thick-skinned will gain free admission to the Victoria and Albert Museum from October. The controversial idea is popular in America and reaches its pinnacle at the Metropolitan Museum in New York where anyone who refuses to pay a \$5 entrance donation walks into the museum without a lapel badge, risking the displeasure of paying visitors.

A V&A official conceded yesterday that visitors will also be under pressure to donate at the suggested rate of £2 for adults and 50p for children, students and pensioners. They will have to walk past staff manning cash tills in the museum entrance, though no one who refuses to donate will be refused admission.

Sir Roy Strong, the museum's director, said: "We are looking not just to sponsors but to the people who know and love the V&A to help us give them the museum they deserve and we want."

But voluntary admission schemes are not universally admired by the museum's staff. Dr Neil Cossons, director of the National Maritime Museum, which broke new ground by introducing general admission charges last year, said: "My feeling is that a voluntary charge generates about 25 to 30 per cent of what a mandatory charge will generate unless you are particularly brutal about extracting a voluntary charge."

The Imperial War Museum introduced voluntary charges at Christmas. Dr Alan Borg, its director, said yesterday that the scheme, which suggests £1 for adults and 50p for children and pensioners, had raised £50,000.

The British Museum and the Tate have publicly rejected the idea of introducing charges.

Berri frees 3 and puts pressure on Israel



Mr Nabih Berri clearing the way for Demis Roussos, the hijacked Greek singer, as he left Berri's home after his release yesterday.

Continued from page 1
hijacked on Friday stood close to the terminal building with the captain, Mr John Testrake, apparently still in the cockpit.

A control tower official said Captain Testrake had spoken on the aircraft radio during a routine check on his microphone. The rest of his flight deck crew was probably on board, though airport staff say they now believe all passengers have been taken from the plane.

At least one gunman, holding a rifle and wearing a cowboy hat, sat in the co-pilot's seat yesterday while the aircraft engines, refuelled on Monday night, continued to work the cabin air-conditioning system.

Out at sea, the grey shape of an American warship, probably the missile cruiser USS Kidd, could be seen for much of the day, while an Israeli missile boat, nearer the coast, raced up and down the shoreline.

ages, but most appear to regard this as a bluff. Very few militiamen seem to know where the passengers are now hidden.

One thing that is clear is that Mr Berri, while not instigating the hijack or controlling those who carried it out, is certainly co-operating with them.

● **GENEVA:** The International Red Cross would be willing to oversee any exchange of Lebanese Shia prisoners held by Israel for the hijack hostages, a spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said yesterday (Reuters reports).

But the Geneva-based organization has received no request from any party to intervene.

ICRC policy on possible mediation in cases involving hostages is "not to take any initiative of its own and to consider a possible intervention only at the request of all parties and the consent of all", it said.

The Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres, said his Government would consider any appeal from the ICRC to free the prisoners.

Angry American public demands revenge raids

Continued from page 1

noting that he has a former wife and six children living near Detroit, still has an American residence permit and, according to the White House, has been here often enough to understand American feelings.

Mr Reginald Bartholomew, the US ambassador in Beirut, has been in frequent telephone contact with him, as well as with other factional leaders. But Washington is concerned that while he has claimed responsibility for the 30 passengers taken off the plane on Monday only about half the estimated 10 passengers with Jewish-sounding names are under his control, the remainder presumably being guarded by the hijackers.

The crisis has touched a deep well of public anger throughout the US which could severely damage the Administration.

In heated outbursts on television ordinary people are repeatedly calling for devastating military reprisals against the Shias, Iran or anyone connected with the hijacking. The feeling is that enough is enough.

Officials admit, however, that military action is now all but impossible with the dispersal of the passengers in Beirut. But in a show of strength US naval forces have moved into the eastern Mediterranean.

In another development, the State Department warned American citizens of the potential danger of air travel to, through, or from, Athens.

● **MOSCOW:** The Soviet media said the US was making the hijacking as a pretext for sending warships to the Lebanese coast (AP reports).

Labour faces Asian challenge in Leicester

Continued from page 1

Labour's black section campaigners are launching a challenge against the party establishment in Leicester in an effort to have an Asian candidate selected for the next election (Our Political Correspondent writes).

The city's population is at least a third Asian or black and a local petition, said to have been signed by 15,000 people, accuses Labour of pursuing "contradictory" policies, calling for a multi-racial society while freezing black or Asian candidates out of winnable seats.

At the last election, an Asian independent effectively killed Labour's chances in Leicester East when he polled 970 votes. The Conservative majority was 933.

The Leicester East party has been warned recently that it could face another Asian independent protest at the next election.

Linda Christmas in the Commons

Four S dominant in sickness and health

There can be no doubt: it was the day the Secretary of State for Social Services (the "Four S" man) dominated. At all moments, ministerial question time, prime ministerial quarter hour, the space allotted to statements and that allotted to 10-minute rule Bills, not to mention the subject of the main debate, Mr Norman Fowler, and his team took the opportunity to drench the House with their proposals for our health and welfare.

Now, Four S is not to be confused with Four X, the latter being a beer designed to stimulate social occasions, and the former being a brew, we hope, designed to stimulate our social progress.

And according to an answer given early in the proceedings, a vast number of citizens eagerly await the new concoction. The nation is not in the best of health: since 1978, NHS hospitals in England alone have handled 650,000 more in-patient cases, 250,000 more day cases and 600,000 more out-patients.

What has caused this rise in sickness was not revealed for the health side of the package was overshadowed by the House's desire to come to terms with the newly released Green Paper designed to promote our welfare so that we do not become hospital statistics.

Statistics, or rather the demand for figures in order that the nation might grapple towards an understanding of the proposals, took no time at all enter the debate. And of course the minister was waiting for just such a little local difficulty was not going to throw him.

Now is the time for structure, he said once more, and ever more firmly; November was the time for statistics. The White Paper is the place for illustrative rates, he persisted, and any charge of a cover-up, or any claim that he had much to hide - both suggestions coming from Mr Michael Meacher - were swiftly tossed aside by a counter challenge to Labour to reveal their own proposals.

But if Mr Meacher failed to engage Four-S in a game of gainers and losers, which looks as though it might become a

popular pastime in the coming months, maybe even over-turning Trivial Pursuit that did not deter Mr Kincock from inviting Mrs Thatcher to play a round with him.

She responded to ever louder screams of approval from those seated behind, that she was not ready to play either and reminded Mr Kincock that only last Thursday on radio, he had declined to reveal his party's figures for taxes and contributions, saying: "Middle stump", cried Mr Nicholas Soames, as Mr Kincock slumped back between two ladies in shocking pink to collect his thoughts before returning to the attack. The day was yet young. And Mr Fowler had £2,000 million worth of increased benefits to hand out and thus ensure that he kept the title of champion of the Tory conscience.

Two billion pounds to prove that he was not mean-hearted, was not a cutter, but a spender, and above all to prove that the nation's financial health could well stomach a social service budget of £42 billion.

That was the signal for another game; this time the child is given a bicycle and whistles because it is not a BMX. Pensioners, one-parent families, and those on supplementary benefit were given rises to counter the 7 per cent rise in inflation, but child benefits had been left to freeze.

Cutting cash to children, to be able to offer tax perks to the rich? That was Mr Meacher's view.

Four S was not pleased: cutting the air with his hands as though Mr Meacher's jugular was within reach, he yelled that the response was ludicrous even by the Hon Gentleman's standards.

They like each other really, for when Mrs Edwina Currie tried to get in on Meacher-bashing, Mr Fowler leapt to his defence, saying that he did not wish to see his champion attacked too much in case he might be moved.

What did the minister fear, demotion for a colleague, or the substitution of a faster bowler to challenge his bat?

Continued from page 1

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Today's events

Royal engagements
The Prince of Wales, President of the International Council of United World Colleges, presides at a meeting of the Council at the Atlantic, Llanrwst Major, South Glamorgan, 6.30.

The Prince and Princess of Wales open the new Hall at Westonsbrink School, Tetbury, Gloucs, 11.

Princess Anne attends the Lincolnshire Agricultural Society's Show, Louth, 11.30.

The Duke of Kent, as Chairman of the United Kingdom Committee of European Music Year, attends a performance by Opera North, Palace Theatre, Manchester, 4.55.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,767

This puzzle was solved within 20 minutes by 9 per cent of the competitors at this year's Leeds regional final of the Collins Dictionaries Times Crossword Championship.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32

New books - hardback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

Among You Taking Notes, The Wartime Diary of Naomi Mitcheson 1939-1946, edited by Dorothy Sheridan (Collins, £12.95).
Belshazzar Revisited, The Spencer-Churchills and their Palace, by Hugh Montgomery-Massingbergh (The Bodley Head, £12.95).
Cappaghiasis, by Peter Somerville-Large (Hamish Hamilton, £12.95).
Conservation to the Arts in the Twentieth Century, by Kenneth MacLain (Nikinc, £8.95).
Memoirs of King George II, by Horace Walpole, edited by John Brooke (Yale, three volumes, £26).
Ed by D. S. Carron-Ross (Yale, £8.95).
The Greek Way of Death, by Robert Garland (Duckworth, £19.50).
The Dark Brain of Princes and other essays, by Marguerite Yourcenar, translated by Richard Howard (Aldin, £11.50).
Restoration: A Social and Religious History of England and Wales 1658-1687, by Ronald Hunt (Oxford, £17.50).

Weather forecast

A shallow ridge of high pressure over E districts will collapse as a trough of low pressure over W Britain moves E during the day.

6am to midnight

London, SE England, East Angles, E Midlands: Sunny intervals, scattered showers developing; wind variable light; max temp 18C (64F).

Central S, NW England, W Midlands, Channel Islands, Lake District, SW Scotland, Argyll: Rather cloudy with showers, perhaps prolonged, but some sunny intervals; wind variable light becoming SW moderate; max temp 18C (64F).

E. Central N, NE England, and Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland: Sunny intervals, scattered showers developing, heavy in places; wind mainly S light; max temp 16C (61F).

SW England, Wales, Isle of Man, Northern Ireland: Mainly cloudy with some rain turning showery with sunny intervals later; wind S veering W moderate; max temp 17C (63F).

Other parts of NW England, Scotland, Shetland: Sunny intervals, scattered showers developing, heavy in places; wind mainly S light; max temp 14C (57F).

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Strait of Dover: Wind variable becoming N light; occasional rain; visibility moderate or good; sea smooth. English Channel (E): Wind variable light; showers; visibility good to moderate. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind S light; showers; visibility good; sea smooth.

The papers

The Daily Star, commenting on Mr Nigel Lawson's budget declaration "a budget for jobs", says that three months later there is still no sign of any immediate cut in the rate of interest.

The Mirror says: "As the full horror of the Brussels football riot begins to fade so the myths and ad hoc excuses surrounding it grow larger."

It adds: "Let us face the facts. What happened in Brussels was wholly the fault of English football fans and English football clubs, not only last month but over a long period of years. If we look elsewhere for the truth, we will end up counselling ourselves with lies."

Commenting on negotiations with the hijackers of the Trans World Airlines jet, the Daily Express says: "Mr Berri, who undoubtedly has the power to end this vile business, has said that as long - and only as long - as negotiations continue over the hijackers' demand he will ensure that the hostages remain safe."

It adds that President Reagan's "dilemma is appalling", but that "sooner or later a stand must be made."

Roads

Wales and West M4: Contrailow between junctions 16 and 17, Swindon to Chippenham. Wiltshire: delays. A30: Roadworks between Launceston and Camborne, Cornwall, Devon; also roadworks between Corn Moor and Camborne bypass; various lane closures, with temporary lights. A48: Single line traffic during working hours from Carmarthen to M4 (junction 49) Nant-y-Caws, Dyfed; also road construction from Cwngwllt to Cross Haven, single line traffic during working hours only.

The North: M6: Contrailow between junction 41 (BS305) and 44 (A1747) Penrith to Carlisle, Cumbria. M63/M62: Lane restrictions at Ecdes interchange, Greater Manchester, N of Marton Bridge; no access from M63 to Ecdes interchange for that week. A598: Lane closures on East Lancashire Rd, Greater Manchester, due to construction work between the A572 junction at Lane Head and the A574 junction; delays.

South: M2: Lane closure construction eight miles N of Stonehaven, Kincardineshire; northbound carriageway closed; contrailow in operation. A7: Roadworks in High St, Newcastle; Stop/Go boards including weekends; information supplied by the AA

Shares on Ceefax

The BBC's teletext service Ceefax will broadcast hourly share price coverage of nearly 200 securities from Monday, June 24. It is available to anyone with a teletext TV receiver in the Citynews section which begins on page 120.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Debate on Opposition motion on price increases.
Lords (2.30): Debate on Government's review of social security.

Top resorts

Wishes Right:
1. (1) Bournemouth
2. (1) Brighton
3. (2) Torquay
4. (2) Bournemouth
5. (2) Brighton
6. (2) Bournemouth
7. (2) Brighton
8. (2) Bournemouth
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31. (1) Brighton
32. (1) Bournemouth

Portfolios

Portfolio - how to play Monday-Saturday record your daily Portfolio

1. Add these together to determine your weekly Portfolio total.

2. If your total exceeds the published weekly dividend figure you have won outright or a share of the prize money shared for that week. No responsibility can be accepted for failure to contact the claims office for any reason within the stated hours.

3. Some Times Portfolio cards include minor dividends in the form of extra prizes. These cards are not included.

4. Some Times Portfolio cards 2 and 3 has been expanded from earlier versions for clarification purposes. The game itself is not affected and will continue to be played in exactly the same way as before.

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4. Some Times Portfolio cards 2 and 3 has been expanded from earlier versions for clarification purposes. The game itself is not affected and will continue to be played in exactly the same way as before.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Debate on Opposition motion on price increases.
Lords (2.30): Debate on Government's review of social security.

Top resorts

Wishes Right:
1. (1) Bournemouth
2. (1) Brighton
3. (2) Torquay
4. (2) Bournemouth
5. (2) Brighton
6. (2) Bournemouth
7. (2) Brighton
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29. (1) Brighton
30. (1) Bournemouth
31. (1) Brighton
32. (1) Bournemouth

Portfolios

Portfolio - how to play Monday-Saturday record your daily Portfolio

1. Add these together to determine your weekly Portfolio total.

2. If your total exceeds the published weekly dividend figure you have won outright or a share of the prize money shared for that week. No responsibility can be accepted for failure to contact the claims office for any reason within the stated hours.

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THE TIMES 1983
TODAY
MORNING
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY
SUNDAY

Imex to take 400 redundant
faces of jail
100 jobs
ALARM REPORT